

6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025

# SIT WITH GOD TODAY

HE HAS GREAT THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU!



The **VIBE**

**Theme:** Letting God Do A New Thing

**Bible Readings:** Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8.

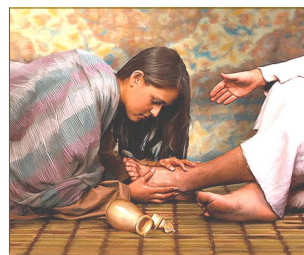
Our Isaiah reading for this Sunday is a call to the people in exile to look to the future with expectation of what God will do rather than keep dwelling on the past.

In the opening verses God reminds the people of what He did to the Egyptian army when it pursued the Children of Israel after they left Egypt. We need to note the words, "who drew out...." in verse 17 which means that God encouraged the Egyptians to pursue the Children of Israel before destroying them in the sea.

In each verse of this reading it is what God is doing - to make a way in the desert and provide water for his people - a people that God chose and made for himself, not like other nations round about. These were a special people to proclaim God's praise.

Between Babylon and the land of Israel and Judah lay a desert that would have to be crossed. The people that would return to Jerusalem would be descendants of the original exiles. They had been born and raised in Babylon during a seventy-year exile and were used to city life on the banks of the Euphrates River. They would need to step out in faith, trusting God for the desert crossing and their reception in Judaea. For them, it would be a new thing.

Our Gospel reading is somewhat different in emphasis. Jesus and his disciples go to Bethany to stay before the Passover in Jerusalem. Lazarus and his sisters give a dinner in Jesus' honour. The men would be reclined around the table and Martha served them with the meal. Mary then did the unexpected by anointing Jesus' feet with about half-a-litre of pure nard, a perfume made from the dried roots of the spikenard plant in North India and therefore very expensive. Mary then wiped his feet with her hair. It was normal for Jewish women to have their hair wound up and clipped on their head and not be hanging loose. Their head would normally be covered except in the presence of her husband and family alone. The reaction by Jesus was contrary to the others present, pointing the way for others to see things differently to what they had been used to. Amen.



Peter Hall

# A Lenten Reflection

In both readings we see the move of God in a way that challenges people's thinking. The exiles in Babylon were settled and had become part of the fabric of Babylonian society. We see this from the books of Nehemiah and Daniel. When King Cyrus overthrew the Babylonian empire he allowed the exiles to return to their own country. About 42,000 Jews travelled to Judah but many stayed in Babylon. The offer by Cyrus would have required people to re-think their priorities in life and what God was calling them to do and be.



Similarly, in the Gospel reading, those present at the dinner in Lazarus' home would have been shocked at Mary's behaviour. Jesus saw things differently.

At this Lenten time it is good for us to reflect on our faith and our priorities in life. How do they fit in with God's priorities and do we need to make some changes?

Peter



## Uniting 4570 Name Badges

If you would like to order a name badge, please let Cherylie know by phone, email or in person (including what type of back attachment you prefer - either a PIN or MAGNET). We'll be lodging an order during the week before Easter.

The cost is **\$14** and **PAYMENT** can be made either in ~~cash~~ (we keep very little cash on site, so it would be appreciated if you could bring the correct change) or by bank transfer to our church account with a reference of '**Badge**' and '**your name**'. (Bank account and church office contact details can be found on the back of this newsletter).

## The Real Machine Gun Preacher

Sam Childers, renown 'Machine Gun Preacher', will be at Nelson Reserve this **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April** from **5:30 to 8pm**. There'll be live music and food available. BYO Chair/Rug. FREE event ... there will be opportunity to give to Sam's ministry.



**Gympie: David Fanning**

**Imbil: Peter Hall (HC)**

## Gympie Strings Concert

Next Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm at St. Peter's Anglican Church (cnr Amy St. and Lady Mary Tce, Gympie). Entry: gold coin donation. Refreshments afterward.



### **Palm Sunday**

13<sup>th</sup> April - 9am worship services at both Gympie and Imbil locations.

### **Maundy Thursday Meal**

On Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April we'll share a meal at the long table. We hope you can join us on this significant Passover-style occasion. Arrival from 5.30pm for a 6pm start.



For catering and preparation purposes, please let us know if you plan to come.

**➤ Please RSVP to Joan Burke by next Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

### **Good Friday**



18<sup>th</sup> April - 8am worship services at both Gympie and Imbil locations.

### **Resurrection Sunday**

20<sup>th</sup> April - 9am worship services at both Gympie and Imbil locations.



### **Hope Reins has some places available in their 'Brave On Program' for Term 2**

Who: Women who want to build confidence and understanding about who they are.

What: Small group setting, 2 hours per week for 6 weeks.

Work with horses to explore topics of identity, fears, strengths, forgiveness and love, motivation and self-care.

No riding involved and no horse experience required.

When: Thursdays during the day, commencing 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Contact: Jo at [admin@hopereins.org.au](mailto:admin@hopereins.org.au) or on 0428 084 673.



### **Christmas Shoebox Collections**

**During April** we're collecting '**Something to Wear**' - Boys and Girls clothing for ages 2 to 14. **NEW** clothing only such as T-shirts, shorts, skirts, socks, dresses, thongs, underwear, caps, beanies - to fit in a shoebox-size gift pack with lots of other items. Clothing must have sleeves or come with a t-shirt to wear underneath.



**UNITING 4570**  
**Better Together**

5th Sunday of  
**Lent**  
*We prepare*

**Worship**

**Worship Services...** **Gympie Uniting Church:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church  
**Imbil Uniting Church:** 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am  
**Live-streaming...** Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

**Contact Us**

**Church Office...** M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: [cherylie@gruc.org](mailto:cherylie@gruc.org)  
[www.gruc.org.au](http://www.gruc.org.au) F: [www.facebook.com/guchurch](http://www.facebook.com/guchurch)  
**Office Hours...** Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm  
**Pastoral Care...** Please contact the office by phone or email.

- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250 or join us at 8am of a Tuesday in the CE Room.



**Offering and Attendance Last Week**

Attendance: Adults 67 ♦ Children 11 ♦ Facebook 63  
 You can give your tithes & offerings by direct transfer into the church's bank account Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101 (Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', 'Shoebboxes', etc. Thank you).

