



Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry in to Jerusalem, highlighting both the joy of the crowd and the profound purpose of His mission.



Palm Sunday ...is yours a casual or committed faith?

A little boy was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, "Why do you have that palm branch, dad?" "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved Palm Branches to honour him, so we got Palm Branches today." The little boy replied, "Aw Shucks! The one Sunday I miss is the Sunday when Jesus shows up!"

Palm Sunday- The day when a whole city threw a parade for Jesus. As Jesus rode into the city, the people threw Palm branches in anticipation of his coming. But this day is Bittersweet for us because even as we read of the celebration we know that Friday is coming- The cross is coming. We know that many in this same crowd will within a few short days exchange words of praise to words of death. Shouting Hosanna, Hosanna and then later shouting Crucify Him, Crucify Him.

Let's focus our attention on two services, both focused upon Jesus, but with two different results. We see a perfect example of this in Holy Week. On Sunday Jesus rode into the city with the people shouting praises and praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. On Friday they are shouting give us Barabas, We want him, Crucify Jesus Crucify Him. Why the change?

Well there are many possible reasons, but one simple reason is that **their words did not match their heart**. They possessed a casual not a committed faith. They had religion but they missed the person Jesus... So how can we have a committed faith? Well I want to offer you some keys to just such a faith.

The first Key is that a committed faith is not self-centered it is Christ-Centered. This sounds obvious, but we often miss it . In our passage, The people praised Jesus as He passed by, but many of them praised him for two reasons. First, because of his miracles. He had healed the sick, raised the dead...They praised Him because he was serving them and Second, because they saw in Jesus a way to be politically delivered from the Romans- To be set free from Rome as Israel was set free from Egypt. Their praise was tempered with the attitude of Jesus what can you do for me.

A few days later at the trial they saw a beaten and disfigured Jesus- A man who no longer looked like a deliverer or a conqueror. And as words were said about him, they bought into all the lies and quickly changed their position. For them it was all about Me, Me, Me.



A second key is that a committed faith is relationship driven. Many of those who gathered to throw their coats and palm branches onto the street and who shouted praises did so because it was the popular thing to do at the time. At that one brief moment it became trendy.

Perhaps some began doing it with sincere motives, but others soon did it because others were doing it. Later at the trial, shouting crucify Him was the thing to do... In fact for a brief moment it was the trendy thing to do to make a mass murderer and criminal their hero when they shouted we want Barabas.

In our own lives a committed faith comes only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One where every day is fresh and new as he personally directs our steps. In order to have a committed faith we must develop an maintain a personal relationship with Jesus.

A third Key - at the parade it was trendy to offer praise... Everyone was doing it.. But at the trial to speak out for Jesus was risky... possibly even life threatening. If our faith is based on our situations or circumstances it will never be committed... It will always be casual. In my life I have gone to many big Christian events. Many packed large stadiums... Where the praises for God rock the entire arena... Where everyone is praising... When returning home while everyone is still glowing from the worship, I say guys it is easy to do that here, but tomorrow you face the hard task, can you do that in a world that is not all praising in fact a world that is mocking laughing and is often angry.

A story is told of A little girl who while walking in a garden noticed a particularly beautiful flower. She admired its beauty and enjoyed its fragrance. "It's so pretty!" she exclaimed. As she gazed on it, her eyes followed the stem down to the soil in which it grew. "This flower is too pretty to be planted in such dirt!" she cried. So she pulled it up by its roots and ran to the water faucet to wash away the soil. It wasn't long until the flower wilted and died.

When the gardener saw what the little girl had done, he exclaimed, "You have destroyed my finest plant!" "I'm sorry, but I didn't like it in that dirt," she said. The gardener replied, "I chose that spot and mixed the soil because I knew that only there could it grow to be a beautiful flower."

God has placed us exactly where we are. We must trust him. In the trusting We eventually see that He is using our pressures, trials, and difficulties to bring us to a new degree of spiritual beauty. True Contentment comes when we accept what God is doing and thank Him for it.

It may seem a little odd, but Jesus being cheered by the crowd one day and condemned another is exactly where God wanted him to be - praise then death so that he could rise again

Kevin Litchfield, Cleveland Hope Baptist, Cleveland Ohio Pastor/Minister

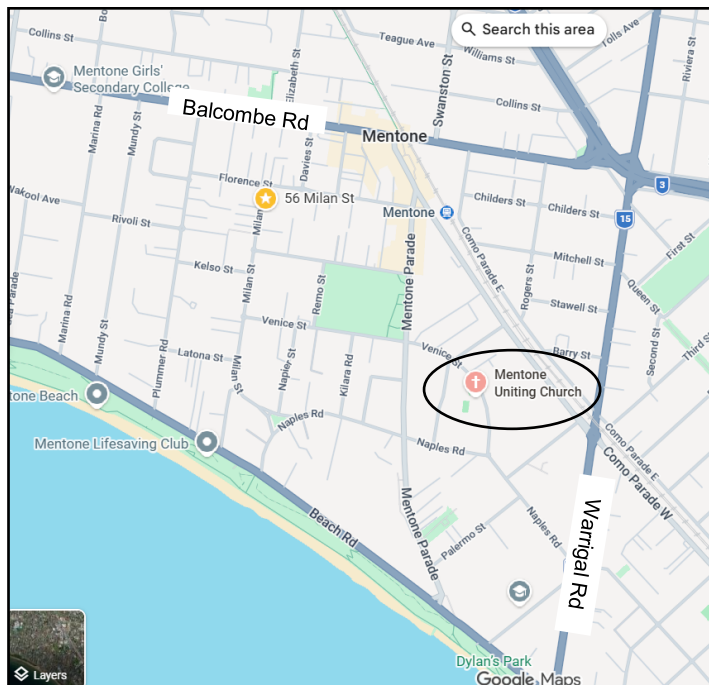
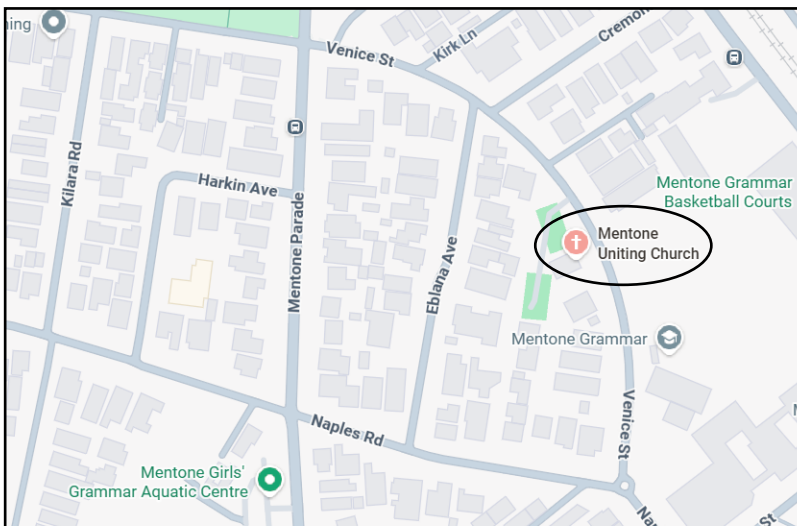


Read the full text at ...



“Maundy Thursday Supp & Service” 2nd April 6:30pm at the former Mentone Uniting Church, 74 Venice St, Mentone.

Bring a suitable meal for yourself and something to share with others, tea, coffee and cold drinks provided



EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday

2nd April 6.30pm

**'Supp' & Service at the
Former Mentone Uniting Church
74 Venice Street, Mentone**

**Good Friday - 3rd April
9am service**

**St Andrews Black Rock
Balcombe Road, Black Rock**

Easter Day

Sunday 5th April 10am service

**St Andrew's Black Rock
Balcombe Road, BlackRock**

**Come and celebrate
*"The Risen Christ"***



Walk for justice, respect and kindness

Palm Sunday 29 March 2026

2-3.30pm Speakers and music at Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr

Prior to the program:

1pm Gather on Princes Bridge with banners and placards

1.30pm Walk to Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr

#justice4all #Respect #Kindness

Queries: info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au

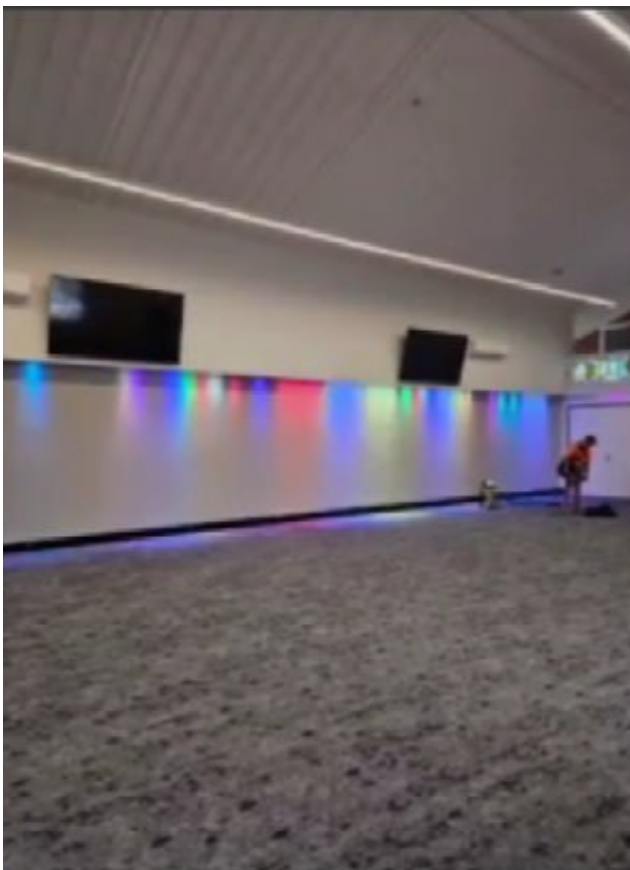
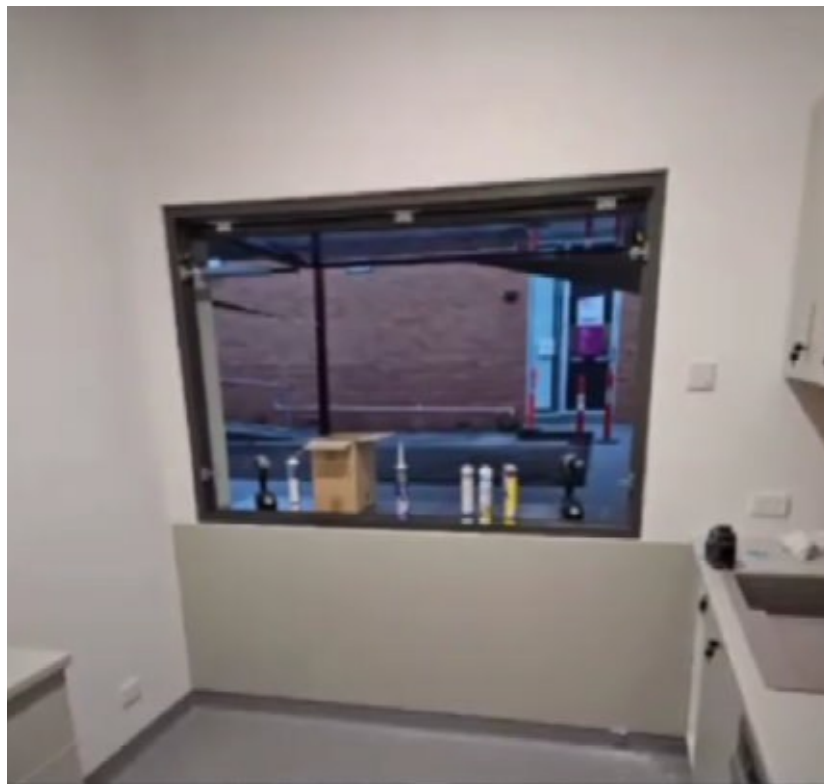
Welcome Refugees



*Charman is ready
to “serve” our
community ...*

Left: The servery to the garden space now has a shiny new shelf.

Below: View from the kitchen side of the servery



Lighting behind the sanctuary area is now functional. The picture shows some of the colours available for various lighting effects



Bible Readings Holy Week (the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

March 29th	Palm Sunday	Isiah 50: 4-9a	Psalm 118: 1-2 19-29	Philippians 2: 5-11	Matthew 21: 1-11
April 2nd	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10) 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
April 3rd	Good Friday	Is 52:13 – 53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
April 5th	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jerimiah31:1-6	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the **CROSSLIGHT** image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au

Print copies of **CROSSLIGHT** are available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church.



*Prayers
of the
People*



Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Barry
Les
Jo-ann's brother Ian & and her
cousin Helen
Adrian
Maria
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their
daughter, Rachel
Emily
Karen

We pray for all in need especially -

Helen Cole
Gloria, Samson & Family
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking
Grace & Van Rensberg
Joan's friends Robyn & Jemma
Kath Tondorf
Susan Hoskin

Mark
Mary
Margaret Walker
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
Sybil Bond
June and Grace Fairbank

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee "UCA Cheltenham Mentone Parish"
Although we are now the Charman Uniting Church, we expect banking arrangements to remain the same as before, for the rest of the year.

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au
Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**



OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:



Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 200** sermons and service preludes

This week's video – "From nothing to new life"

*Pastor Di Paterson
22nd March 2026*

Click on image or [HERE](#) to view



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (virtual doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.



At Easter - sorrow and joy

