



# Scots' Weekly

## Friday 3 April 2020

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### SERMONS THIS PALM SUNDAY – 5 APRIL 2020

This coming Sunday, you can listen to:

- Rev Philip Court will be preaching from John 12:9-33.

The sermon title is "**Why the donkey? And why the Greeks**".

The recording on our website includes two hymns from the Scots' Church choir.

The reading accompanying the morning sermon is John 12:9-33. The bible text can be found at the end of this newsletter.

- Rev Richard O'Brien preaching from Mark 11 1-25.

The sermon title is: '**The Point of No Return**'. The Bible reading can be found at the end of this newsletter.

This link will take you to our pre-recorded sermons: [www.scotschurch.com/sermons](http://www.scotschurch.com/sermons)

Rev Christian Tirtha will be live-streaming his sermon in Indonesian at 10.30 am.

Here is the link: [www.icc-melbourne.org/sermons](http://www.icc-melbourne.org/sermons)

### UPCOMING WEEKS

- Good Friday – Rev Richard O'Brien
- Easter Sunday 11am Service - Rev Philip Court
- Easter Sunday 5pm Service – Rev Richard O'Brien



### **Seeing God during Difficulties**

The crisis caused by the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus has forced us to live and interact in such a different way, so much so feels as if we're entering a different world altogether. We can't deny that we live and will continue to live in times of real difficulties. Times that will be the trial of faith for most who profess to be followers of Christ.

When we think of Daniel, often times we recall the stories of he and his three faithful friends, standing their ground against a pagan culture. These stories are covered in the first half of the book, spanning 6 well-told and faith-building chapters. What we seldom recall are the second half of the same book, chapters 7-12. If chapters 1-6 tell history from mostly human point of view, then chapter 7 onwards take us behind the scene to God's point of view. After all, aren't we all curious to see what God has in store behind every difficult and uncertain situation?

From chapters 7 onwards Daniel was given a series of visions concerning the future. I will trust that you can read these chapters in your own time. But allow me to highlight a couple of lessons from chapter 7, where these visions commence.

**The God who brings fear.** Daniel was given amazing visions of the future, followed by a God-authorized interpretation of the same! And yet, at the end of the chapter we read that he became really troubled and his face was pale with fear (Dan 7:28). Note that this is not a fear of disbelief that says, "I knew I should've done away with trusting God!" This is a holy fear that comes by seeing the vastness of God's sovereign power, even as he rules and controls history in his unsearchable wisdom and actions. *During times of uncertainty, what or who do we fear the most? When was the last time we had a holy fear when we think about our God?*

**The God who came near.** In the middle of these visions, we see an equally amazing sight: the heavenly Son of Man, who was presented before God and was given "dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed" (Dan 7:13-14). He was given power so that he might act as a bridge between mankind and God. Later in the Gospels, when asked whether Jesus was the promised Messiah, he answered, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mar 14:62). A response straight from Daniel's vision!

The fact that Jesus made this statement on the night of his crucifixion is crucial. It means that his sacrificial death is a historical and visible act of God coming near to save us. While we are keeping ourselves clean and safe from being infected or infecting the virus to others (as we should!), only Jesus did the unthinkable: he allowed the true virus of sin to be laid on him, suffering the separation from God that we all deserve, dying the death that none of us could ever endure. *During times of difficulties, what an encouraging thought to know that in Jesus we see God's deep love and care for us came near.*

As we approach the Easter, let us be reminded that Jesus' life, death and resurrection are sure signs that the Lord God, who is worthy of our fear, is also the one who has come near. What a great hope we have in Jesus!

**Rev Christian Tirtha  
Minister, Indonesian Christian Church**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"The way to Heaven is ascending; we must be content to travel uphill,  
though it be hard and tiresome, and contrary to the natural bias of our flesh."

(Jonathan Edwards)

### CHURCH DIARY DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>End of Daylight Saving</b> | Sunday, 5 April |
| <b>Holy Week</b>              | 6 - 13 April    |
| <b>ANZAC Day</b>              | 25 April        |
| <b>Mother's Day</b>           | 10 May          |

**Sermons on line** — Just a reminder that a back catalogue of sermons are available online. New sermons are uploaded to our web site each Friday.

**[www.scotschurch.com/sermons](http://www.scotschurch.com/sermons)**

Sunday 11am, Sunday 5pm, Wednesday 1pm, and Thursday 1pm services.

St Stephen's Flemington Sunday service.

The Indonesian Sunday service can be found at

**[www.icc-melbourne.org/sermons](http://www.icc-melbourne.org/sermons)**

### CHURCH GROUPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

All meetings have been postponed until further notice. Some will be proceeding by telephone or video conferencing. If you are part of a group that will be using this facility you will be contacted about it. For more information about the group you attend please contact the convenor of that group.

### NOTICES

The City Bible Study (CBS) is meeting through Live Streaming on Tuesday nights 6:30-8:30pm. All you need is a computer connected to the Internet.

Also, CBS has also been meeting for coffee on Saturday morning – Virtually – through Live Streaming. If you would like to know more about CBS and Saturday morning please don't hesitate to contact Richard O'Brien on 0415 978 561

How to navigate our web site to find the following information.

- Scots' Weekly - <https://www.scotschurch.com/scots-weekly>
- The pastoral letters - <https://www.scotschurch.com/blog/post/latest-pastoral-letter>
- The Leaflet - <https://www.scotschurch.com/the-leaflet>
- The sermons - <https://www.scotschurch.com/sermons>
- The Engage newsletters - <https://www.scotschurch.com/engage-newsletter>
- The ICC website – [www.icc-melbourne.org](http://www.icc-melbourne.org)

**Change of details** — If your contact details have recently changed please don't forget to let the office know. This way we can keep you up to date with Church information. Phone: 9650 9903 and leave a message or email to [wendy@scotschurch.com](mailto:wendy@scotschurch.com)

### **FROM THE SCOTS' CHURCH ARCHIVES**

#### **Notice that appeared in the Kirk Sessions notes for 7 March 1919**

'In consequence of the "influenza Epidemic" and the restrictions in connection therewith – the church was closed for 5 Sundays.

#### **Notices that appeared in the Scots' Church Monthly Leaflet March 1919**

Owing to the influenza epidemic the Church has been closed for several Sunday's and in consequence there has been a considerable loss in revenue from ordinary collections. The Trustees and Board of Management hope that this will be borne in mind by our people when services are resumed, and that they will increase their usual contribution sufficiently to make good the loss. The Church has now been closed for five Sundays, and the average ordinary collection is about £25 per Sunday.

Our Neglected Children's Aid Society – The Children (46) in the Home are all well. Owing to the influenza epidemic the 'Kildonan' has been closed to visitors for weeks. The committee had all the children inoculated and so far the Home is 'clean'. Unfortunately the State School is still closed, but we hope it may reopen very soon.

### **BIBLE READING FOR THE SERMON GIVEN BY REV PHILIP COURT** **05.04.2020 11am Service**

#### **John 12:9-33 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup> “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

**BIBLE READING FOR THE SERMON GIVEN BY REV RICHARD O'BRIEN**  
**05.04.2020 – 5pm Service**

**Mark 11:1-25 (ESV)**

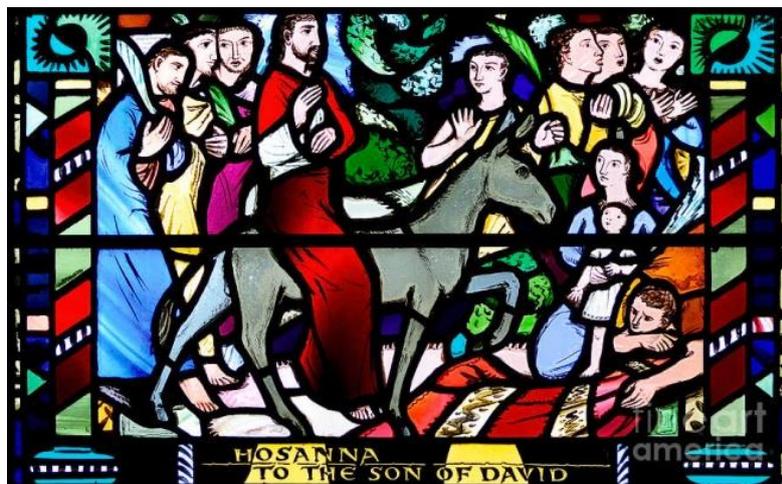
**11** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup> And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup> And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup> And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

<sup>11</sup> And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

<sup>12</sup> On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. <sup>13</sup> And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup> And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

<sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>16</sup> And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup> And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” <sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. <sup>19</sup> And when evening came they went out of the city.

<sup>20</sup> As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” <sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”



**London, England, UK. St Etheldreda's Church in Ely Place.  
Ancient chapel of the Bishops of Ely.  
Jesus enters Jerusalem – Palm Sunday**



**The people of The Scots' Church started meeting together in 1838,  
and since 1874 have worshipped at the present building.  
All who share in the basis of our faith  
are encouraged to apply for membership.**

**How to contact us**

Telephone information and after hours answering service: 9650 9903  
Emergency contact: 0425 884 034  
(only to be used if you have been unable to contact an Elder or Minister)  
Email: [admin@scotschurch.com](mailto:admin@scotschurch.com) Web: [www.scotschurch.com](http://www.scotschurch.com)

**The Ministry Team**

|                              |                        |              |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Minister to the CBD:         | Rev Richard O'Brien    | 0415 978 561 |
| Indonesian Christian Church: |                        |              |
|                              | Prof Sen Sendjaya      | 0430 479 898 |
|                              | Rev Christian Tirtha   | 0405 459 054 |
| Music Ministry:              | Mr Douglas Lawrence AM | 9650 9903    |
| Session Clerk:               | Mr Peter Armstrong     | 9650 9903    |
| Administrator:               | Mr Sebert Ruddock      | 9650 9903    |
| Interim Moderator:           | Rev Philip Court       | 9650 9903    |

**Maintaining your free-will offerings**

Please continue to provide your normal free-will offerings. They are more important than ever at this critical time.

There are three ways you can do this:

- By electronic transfer to BSB **083 004**, Account number **630 327 585**
- By cheque made out to The Scots' Church Melbourne and posted to 1/156 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
- By credit card over the phone. Telephone the Church Office on 9650 9903

For public health reasons, **do not** send cash in to the Church Office.