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Pastor Connect

21 April 2009

Happy Easter!

Well, here we are, at our third Sunday of Easter. Yes, that's right. In the Church calendar we actually have an Easter season. It's not just one day! Similarly to how we celebrate the Lentern, Advent and Christmas seasons, Easter is also celebrated and held in reverence by the Church. The season starts with Easter Sunday, and covers 50 days till Pentacost Sunday, where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.



As we go through this season, it gives us a chance look at what happened to Jesus after his resurrection and how the disciples started to work out what they were going to do. We hear stories of the early Church from the book of Acts and see again how we can take courage and inspiration from them. The season culminates in two events. The first is the ascension of Christ into heaven and the second is Pentacost. The Easter season is exciting as we hear again the story of the start of the Church to which we still belong to today, and it gives us a chance to reconnect with the foundations of faith and what it means to be a community of Christ.

Now you may also notice that the colours up the front of the Church change. Now these colours are not anything magical...what they are used for is to remind us what part of the Church year we are in. We have just come out of lent, which is purple, and have started Easter, which is White. White is used rarely in the Church year and only at the most significant times to show the importance of them. We use white at Christmas and Easter as we celebrate these holy and sacred events in the life of Christ and the Church. White will continue till Pentacost Sunday when, to celebrate the coming of the fire of the Holy Spirit, we use the colour red.

So Easter. It's not over yet and lasts much longer than a day of hot cross buns and chocolate bunnies. It's 50 days to reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ, the hope that this brings, and to reconnect again to the beginnings of the Church.

If you haven't been to Church recently or connected with MCC Sydney, I would encourage you to do so during the Easter season as we have some exciting events coming up.

*This Sunday morning we have Rev Johnathan Jones, visiting and he will be sharing the message with us. Rev Jones worked at MCC Sydney as a youth Pastor before serving as Pastor of MCC Anchorage and MCC Edinburgh.

*On May 10, in the morning we will be having a Mother's Day service and in the evening our annual Leather Pride Service.

*On May 17 in the morning our regional elder, Rev. Ken Martin will be visiting and sharing the message with us. During this service he will also be installing me as Pastor of MCC Sydney. He will then be back with us at the evening Crave service to worship with us.

We also have some community events coming up including the International Day Against Homophobia. Stay tuned for more information!

I hope to see you soon at MCC Sydney.

Blessings

Rev Gavin Ward
Pastor
MCC Sydney

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