



# Reflections

May '22

Seek Growth



Find Life



Know love

**Sunday Church Services**  
**Every Sunday**  
**Traditional at 10am**  
**Contemporary at 6.30pm**

### Editor's Corner

#### The Sun Is Always Shining....Daily OM

If darkness has fallen, know that the Sun is shining at this very moment, somewhere not too far away.

There are times when gloom or darkness causes us to momentarily lose sight of the light. It is at these times when the thought of the sun can help us. If clouds block our view, they are only filtering the sun's light temporarily. It's only a matter of time before it will shine on us again.

Sometimes all we need to do is have faith and wait for the time when everything is in its perfect place again. In doing so we exercise our patience, making sure we are prepared when opportunity knocks and all other elements are in their right and perfect places. The sun also reminds us that our own shining truth is never extinguished. Our light shines within us at all times, no matter what else occurs around us. Sometimes our belief in our own light requires more time. If we think back, however, we can find moments when it showed itself and trust that we will see it again. Like the sun, our light is the energy that connects us to the movements of the universe and the cycles of life and is present at all times, whether we feel its glow or not.

### CONGRATULATIONS



We have 2 new Board Members! A HUGE Thanks to Sophia Bruem and Vita Caradonna

### MCCS Annual General Meeting

Please be advised MCCS' Annual General Meeting is being held Sunday 29 May 2022 at 12 noon on site.

Zoom will also be available for those unable to attend in person.

Meeting agenda will be forwarded prior to the date.

### 2022 Sydney Candlelight Memorial #WeRemember



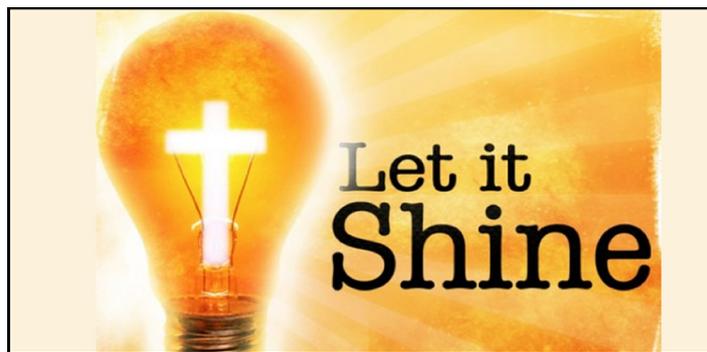
**Date:** Sunday 15 May 2022

**Time:** 3pm to 4pm (Service); 4pm to 4.45pm (Refreshments)

**Place:** The Eternity Playhouse, 39 Burton Street, Darlinghurst NSW

**RSVP:** (02) 9206-2177, 1800 245 677 (freecall) or [contact@positivelife.org.au](mailto:contact@positivelife.org.au)

To add names to the rollcall to be read out at the service, please contact Positive Life on (02) 9206 2177, 1800 245 677 or [contact@positivelife.org.au](mailto:contact@positivelife.org.au)



**LIFEWORDS**

**HAPPY ENDINGS**

**Acts 15:36-41**

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. (NIV)

**2 Timothy 4:9-11**

Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (NIV)

Two passages that are separated in time and subject matter and yet contain one fascinating and encouraging link: a man called Mark. In the first passage, this man Mark had so upset Paul on one of his mission journeys that Paul refused to be in his company. Mark had apparently let him down so badly that the relationship was impaired. In the second passage, which is literally the last recorded words of Paul, he is asking that this same man, Mark, be brought to him. Paul values him so highly.

Our lives are littered with damaged or broken relationships. Others have let us down: we have disappointed them. Friendships have faded. We come to be uncomfortable with certain people: there is something between us. **Cont'd over**

*continued*

And we wonder if it can ever be put right. For those who belong to Jesus, the answer must always be “yes”. In God’s time, the misunderstandings, the betrayals, the wounds, can all be healed. Relationships are retrievable. It might take much patient work, and may involve us in some painful repentance. Who knows how long it took Paul and Mark to be reconciled and what it cost them along the way? But our God is the God of the second chance. God doesn’t want us to live in the dead ends of disappointment and betrayal. We are invited to realize that those who let us down are only human: just like us. God invites us to move from cynicism and self pity to an embracing of a new beginning, a second chance.

How good it would be if our last recorded words were to feature hints of damage undone; hurts healed; friendships restored. This doesn’t happen through human effort or sentimental dreaming. It happens when we surrender all our relationships into the hands of the God who offers to make all things new. With this God, the unhappy chapters of our relational lives need not be the entire story. There can be a happy ending.

Blessings,  
David Reay



**A Blessing For You**



May the God of Comfort bless you. May God's care for you ease all that is troubling to you and reassure you in times of adversity. May you be encouraged by the whisper of God's love for you in the centre of your being and may you rest securely in the arms of the One who will never let go of you. May you extend the hand of comfort to those around you who are in need of that same reassurance. May the God of Comfort be with you. --Maxine Shonk, OP

## A Post Good Friday Reflection

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The very season of Lent presents every believer with a special and Blessed Invitation from our Precious Saviour, to come on a journey of life with Him. He invites us to be with Him, through it all. In the final week of our Saviour's earthly life, He went from the natural high of His majestic and triumphant entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem, with crowds of people shouting His praise and calling Him the Blessed One -- to the heartbreaking low of Good Friday. **How are we doing after this Good Friday, my sibling believers?** Are we still with Jesus, today? His Invitation Still Stands, you know! He invited us to experience everything with Him! Not only the betrayal of His close companions, but the indignities of a mob-arrest and being taken away by force, like a common criminal. Then the cruelty of a public beating, the insensitivity of the soldiers and some in the crowds who mocked Him.

**So how are we doing, believers?** Are we able to stay with Jesus? Can we stick with Him now? Or, are we running away, like some of those first disciples? Will we follow Him now, only from a safe distance, like Peter did on that dark and lonely night of the soul?

What can I say to encourage you to stay the course? What can we say to ourselves and to each other to keep us from turning our faces away and rejecting the Cross, which Jesus has so clearly faced? Let me say three things, which all boil down to one thing: The Promises of God.

1) God has promised never to leave us or forsake us. The Psalmist reminds us that Yhwh-Almighty will take me up. Jesus Himself, gave us these words, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the ages/of all time. If Jesus has promised never to leave us, how can we turn away from Him?"

2) God has promised that we will never be tempted beyond what we can bear, but with every trial, God provides a way of escape -- a way out. Yes, Jesus is our Way-Maker. Like those first disciples once said to Jesus, "Lord, if

we turn from you, where shall we go; only You have the words of life."

3) The New Testament makes it clear -- "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

What each and every one of us must do is to decide on our response to the challenges that come with Good Friday in our lives. I believe the best response we can make to the pain and agony of Good Friday (and of life in general), is this: **Be Strong and Take Courage.** We can do this, no matter how weak and afraid we may feel. With Christ, In Christ, who shapes our new Christian character, we can still respond with strength and courage to whatever life brings our way.

In his new book, "Carry On--Reflections for a New Generation" by the late and great US Congressman from Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the honourable John Lewis has written,

*"Courage reflects your spirit. It reflects something deep within all of us who would rather defy an authority than go along with something that is morally wrong. Raw courage makes us stand up and speak out in the face of fear. Courage helps us overcome doubts and reservations. It's not something that comes from reason or logic but is born from the heart and the divine purpose to take the right path."*

"There may be a time when history calls upon you. There may be an injustice that has hurt you, your friends or community. How will you respond? Will you support those who are oppressed? By listening to the voice within, you will find the courage and power to do what is right, even if it is unpopular at the time. This inner courage will command you to respond to fighting with peace and respond to hate with love."

I pray that we may all find this kind of courage for the living of these days and in these times. Amen

Rev. Elder Carolyn J. Mobley-Bowie  
MCC Council of Elders



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***I Believe God Wants You To Know***

On this day of your life I believe God wants you to know that this is not the end, but the beginning. All endings start something better. It is inevitable.

Here is God's promise: Life proceeds, it never recedes. Life progresses, it never regresses. Not even death ends anything, so how much can this particular event matter?

It is true. When one door closes, another does open. The movement of life is ever upward. Six months from today you will know this. For now, trust it. Do you think God does not know what She is doing?

Your Friend,

Neale Donald Walsch



***The Little Corner Shop Is Open***

Come to the Community and browse the shelves and the clothes rack for something you may want or need. Once you have chosen your item or items decide how much you can afford to pay or what you think the item is worth and put the money into the MONEY TIN.

***There is no Shopkeeper.***

All money raised goes to the church funds. Maybe consider donating an item for sale.

***MCC Welfare Services and the Little Corner Shop Are Helping out the Lismore Flood Victims***

If you arrive in the Community Room and find that the Little Corner Shop is nearly empty, praise God because it means that Welfare Services has arranged for much needed goods to head to Lismore and the surrounding areas.



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**Board of Directors**

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Sophia Bruem Member  
Vita Caradonna Member

**Reflections Items to the Editor**  
[newsletter@mccsydney.org](mailto:newsletter@mccsydney.org)

**NEW EDITOR NEEDED...IS IT YOU?**  
**This Editor needs a break after 10 years**

**Questions, adding/changing your details, join FB closed group, advertising Events**  
[office@mccsydney.org](mailto:office@mccsydney.org)

**MCC Good Shepherd, Granville**  
**Tuesday @ 7pm**  
Rev Stuart Sutherland 0431361519  
[mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com](mailto:mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com)

**CRAVE MCC, Sydney City**  
**Sunday @ 4pm**  
Rev Karl Hand 0425220635  
[redchiron@gmail.com](mailto:redchiron@gmail.com)

**Disability access** is via Crystal St



**Parent's Room** is open

**Hearing Loop** is connected.



**Morning Tea & Supper** will be served in the Community Room