



# ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

## *“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”*



roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

Listening to conversations outside the theatre as we waited for the doors to open, then inside as we went in and found our seats, there was a consistent theme:

“I first saw it when I was 12, here in this exact theatre”, “I saw it about 50 years ago”, “I remember the first time I saw it in the 70s”, “I loved it so much when I first saw it that I went back several times”...and so on.

If you haven't already worked out the production, some clues:

Trevor White, Jon English, Capitol Theatre, “What’s the buzz, tell me what’s a-happening”, Christian boycotts...

Yes! It's the rock-opera and 'iconic global phenomenon', *Jesus Christ Superstar*. My sister and I went to see it with our parents in 1972 and she was very keen to see it again, bought the tickets and off we went.

It holds a special place in my coming-to-faith history. I didn't grow up in a church going/believing household, so I wasn't really familiar with the story, which, as you may know, follows Jesus, Judas and the disciples in the last week of Jesus' life, and ends with the crucifixion (no resurrection here). Of my 12 year old self, I remember two things: I fell madly in love with Jon English, and I somehow tracked down a Bible and started to read it, to find out if Jesus and Mary Magdalene were themselves in love. I was disappointed in the outcome of both these things, but it was the first time I had read the Bible. It didn't stick, but it was an introduction, perhaps a small seed, planted then, ready to sprout up a few years later.

So I remember it with fondness (I think my sympathy for Pilate probably also springs from this early introduction). We enjoyed this production very much (although if such a thing is possible, the lead roles of Jesus and Judas were almost overshadowed by their voices being so amazing!) There were no visible Christian protests being held outside the theatre, as there had been in 1972. It led me to reflect on the change in Biblical literacy in our culture over the last 50 years or so. I feel that in the 1970s the broad story of Jesus, including the resurrection, was something that people had absorbed, even if they didn't believe in it, so they brought some sort of knowledge to their viewing.

Cont'd over.....

### Sunday December 8th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**  
**Organist: Sean Weatherley**  
*In person and online...*

11.00am **Second Cuppa Group**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and Sonia Powell**  
*In person and online...*

#### **Bible Readings from the Lectionary:**

Malachi 3: 1-4  
Luke 1: 68-79  
Philippians 1: 3-11  
Luke 3: 1-6

### *What's on this week...*

Tue: Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am  
Church Council 7.00pm

Wed: Social Games 1.00-3.00pm

Thurs: Reflective Christmas Service 6.00pm

Fri: Christian Meditation 2.30pm  
Spark 7.00-9.30pm

### Sunday December 15th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Service of Lessons and Carols with Chris Goringe**  
**Organist: Robert Bevan**  
*In person and online...*

5.30pm **Community Carols , Cameron Park Turramurra**

#### **Bible Readings from the Lectionary:**

Zephaniah 3: 14-20  
Isaiah 12: 2-6  
Philippians 4: 4-7  
Luke 3: 7-18

Walking out of the theatre last weekend, I overheard conversations (mostly from 'younger' people under 60) who were confused by the ending.

In this production, we don't see Judas' death staged (I looked away when I knew it was coming up, but my sister told me later that Judas' suicide was implied/symbolised rather than being made clear), and at the end (after the crucifixion), we see Jesus and Judas sitting each on an arm of the cross that forms part of the stage set, touching hands.

So there were people who didn't know what happened at the end (and yes, there were still people wondering about Jesus and Mary and their relationship!)

I don't know if this a good or a bad thing, that we can no longer assume that people know the story about Jesus. I'm inclined to think it is the former; if people don't have any preconceptions, perhaps it is easier to share the whole story with them. Watching *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which focuses on a very human Jesus, exhausted, overwhelmed and unsure, there is nothing that points to his being fully divine, as well as fully human; the song Gethsemane, where he questions God, is still heart-rendingly sad, as well as containing one of the longest held sung notes I've ever heard! I caught myself asking/hoping, particularly in this Advent season, that God would be somehow moving in the hearts and minds of the cast and audience, and possibly be prompting them, as I was prompted 50-odd years ago, to investigate the story for themselves, and perhaps find the unimaginable love of God waiting for them.

Amanda

## Join us in prayer....

Last week Sonia passed on a framework (1TSP - I love you, Thanks, Sorry, Please) for a balanced approach to prayer. Another, more traditional, approach with the same intent is ACTS - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Let's use that for this week's prayer points.

**Adoration:** Let's remember and praise the God who loves us, who comes to us in Advent and in the Christmas stories. Let's celebrate the hope that this represents, not just for us but for the whole world.

**Confession:** Let's turn over to God anything that stands between us and God. Whether it is things we have done, things we have failed to do, or ways that we would rather be, remember that God is wise and compassionate and longs to be reconciled to us.

**Thanksgiving:** Look back on the year and remember all the good things that God has been doing. Remember, for example, the encouragement of the Congregational Meeting, with some great ideas for new beginnings and growth in each of our worshipping communities. Remember where God has been with you, your friends, and your family, in good times and in difficulties.

**Supplication:** As the world faces ongoing challenges for peace, stability, and justice, pray for the things that concern you most. Whether it is global conflict, poor leadership from those in power, our worldwide inability to make progress on important matters (like climate change), or - closer to home - people that you know are suffering, commit these things to God in prayer.

Let me finish with my favourite go-to verses on prayer: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Stuart

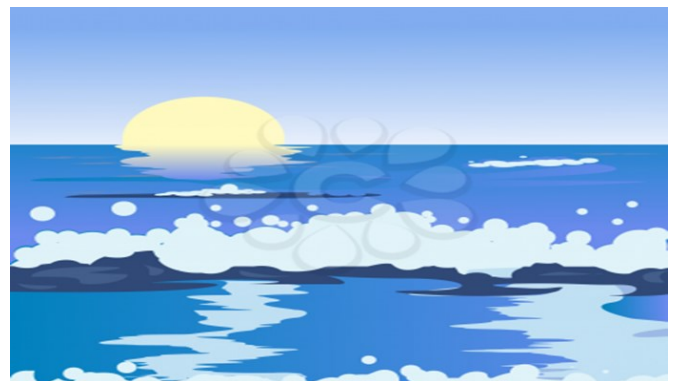
## eSoc Friday December 20th 5.30pm

### Annual Fish and Chips at Balmoral Beach

Join us at 5.30pm at cnr Stanton Road, Wyargine St and Burran Avenue, Mosman. Some may like to take a dip. We will go for a walk and then buy fish & chips to eat in the park, from the *Bottom of the Harbour*. You can also meet us for dinner. Please let me know by 6th December if you would like to join us.

All welcome, feel free to invite friends.

Maz 0432 115 744



## SUMMER @ SIX

There is still the opportunity to host a gathering on Sunday 19th January. Talk to Chris or Cath.

**Rohingya  
Maiyafuinoor  
Collaborative  
Network**



Thank you so much to the church community for your incredible generosity!

Your support will help purchase approximately 35-36 blankets, which means 36 families will stay warm this winter.

Since each family typically consists of six members, around 216 people will be kept warm thanks to your kindness. Thank you again for making a meaningful difference!

Kind regards

Performing in Sydney since 1941  
**Handel's Messiah Sydney**  
RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST INCORPORATED  
83rd Annual Presentation by Radio Community Chest  
SYDNEY TOWN HALL  
Saturday 21st December 2024—3.00pm  
Sunday 22nd December 2024—3.00pm  
100+ voice CHOIR, Professional soloists, GRAND PIPE ORGAN & ORCHESTRA  
The Radio Community Chest gratefully acknowledges the support of the Council of the City of Sydney.

RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST INCORPORATED  
CONDUCTOR: TIM CHUNG—ORGANIST: MARK QUARMBY

SOLOISTS  
SOPRANO MOLLY RYAN  
CONTRALTO REBECCA HART  
TENOR WESLEY YU  
BARITONE HENRY WRIGHT

Radio Community Chest has presented Handel's immortal oratorio *Messiah* at Christmas, commencing in 1941— so this is our **83rd** year.

For full information about us, visit our website [www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au](http://www.handelsmessiahsydney.org.au)

Tickets for the 2024 performances at 3.00pm on 21st and 22nd December are available through our website and at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/1250189>

I am part of this wonderful choir. It would be lovely if you or family & friends could attend a performance, it's glorious! The funds raised are given to various charities.

Thanks,

Rosemary Hurter.



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