

Next Week's Bible Talks

8:30am Bexley

Vincent Chan on "Public Righteousness"
(Matthew 6:1-6,16-18)

9:00am Carlton

Phil Colgan on "Public Righteousness"
(Matthew 6:1-6,16-18)

10:30am Carlton

Phil Colgan on "Public Righteousness"
(Matthew 6:1-6,16-18)

10:30am Bexley North

Tim Baron on "Public Righteousness"
(Matthew 6:1-6,16-18)

6.30pm Church

Phil Colgan on "Public Righteousness"
(Matthew 6:1-6,16-18)

Events

Prayer Meetings

First Saturday of every month, 8am
Email office@snac.org.au for location.

English for Life

Every Friday during school terms,
9:30-11:30am at St James

Big Day Out

Saturday 25th March
Register at www.snac.org.au/bdo

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 28th March, 8pm at St James

Easter Services

Good Friday 14th April (8:30am Bexley, 9:30am Bexley North, 9:30am Carlton)

Easter Sunday 16th April (normal service times)

Contact Us

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Sunday Locations

8:30am Bexley (Contact Jason)

Corner of Albyn St & Dunmore St, Bexley

9:00am Carlton (Contact Kevin)

St James' Carlton, entry via Henry St

10:30am Carlton (Contact Phil)

Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St

10:30am Bexley North (Contact Jason)

Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

6.30pm Church (Contact Troy)

St James' Carlton, entry via Henry St



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Weekly SNAC

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Whose sacrifice at Easter?

What are you giving up for Lent? That's a question I've been asked by Roman Catholic friends over the years when they find out that I'm a Christian. You may have been asked the same question or perhaps you have come across the idea in other forms. For example, it's quite common to see a Facebook post saying "I'm giving up chocolate for Lent" or "I'm giving up Facebook for Lent – see you in 40 days". What is this all about?

I have to confess that becoming a Christian as an adult meant that I was confused about Lent for many years. Lent was one of those Christian sounding ideas that I couldn't find in my Bible and I was too proud to ask about lest I seem stupid! It turns out, Lent is unfamiliar for many Protestant Christians.

What is Lent? Whilst there is no biblical mandate for Lent the practice can be traced back as far as the 2nd Century AD. The church father Irenaeus wrote about Lent as a two or three day period before Easter for self-reflection and repentance. In 325AD, at the Council of Nicea, a period of 40 days rather than two or three days was proposed for Lent. However it is not clear whether that council considered Lent to be for all Christians or just new Christians preparing for Baptism.

After that time Lent took on various forms in the Western Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox churches. Today in Australia Lent is still observed in most Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches but rarely observed in Protestant churches. Because modern Lent is 40 days it has been mistakenly likened by some to Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness; Elijah's 40 day's walking to the mountain of the Lord and Moses' 40 years of wandering with Israel. This has made Lent seem, incorrectly, to be something of a personal and sacrificial pilgrimage leading up to Easter.

So what do we do with Lent in the lead up to Easter?

First, we should recognise the inherent dangers of man-made religion – even when it is well intentioned. Lent began as a way to reflect upon Jesus' death and make humble repentance in light of it in the lead up to Easter. Sadly, what Lent has become, for many, just makes a mockery of the cross. The idea that giving up some sugar or a little social media might be the appropriate way to respond to Jesus' sacrifice is appalling. Worse still is the idea that doing enough of these so-called 'sacrifices' will win over God's saving favour.

Hebrews 10:5 reminds us that back in the Old Testament times God "did not delight in whole burnt offerings and sin offerings". Why not? Because it is impossible "for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Heb 10:4). If animal sacrifices did not atone for sin then what hope is in a sacrifice of no chocolate?

Secondly, when it comes to Lent, we should not let the failure of the man-made practice distract us from the good original intention. That is: Lent was a way to remind ourselves just how important Easter is. So rather than get caught up in observing Lent, let's get caught up in remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us.

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At the cross in those final moments of Jesus life he cried out "it is finished!". He was announcing an incredible truth: that the weight of all our sins, the hostility between mankind and God and the fundamental brokenness of the world since the Fall (Genesis 3) had been dealt with by him. **Easter is about Jesus' sacrifice for us** to make us who are unclean, holy (Hebrews 10:10). May we grow in our appreciation of that and Him every day!

The Anglican Prayer Book suggests a prayer for the first week of Lent that you might like to make your own:

Father, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection and teach us to reflect it in our lives. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jason Veitch

Time with the Turners

The Turner family are back from Tanzania and will be spending some time with us again this week at SNAC. Starting this Sunday they are visiting the Bexley and Bexley North congregations. However, if you missed them last week, feel free to go along to one of these events.

Here are the different times to hear from them this week:

Tuesday morning 14 March – 'T10' - 10am at Bexley North Anglican Church (Enter via Carrisbrook Ave)

Wednesday morning 15 March – 'Primetime' - 10am at Christ Church Bexley

Wednesday night 15 March – 7:30 for 7:45pm start at Bexley North Anglican Church (Enter via Carrisbrook Ave)

Church Finances

Praise God for the generosity of his people at St George North. In January our giving was very strong and set us on a good start to the year. However, as we will hear at our AGM in a couple of weeks our monthly required offertories has increased for this year, which means we are slightly behind budget as we start.



Our work can only happen through the generous support of our church members. Please prayerfully consider your giving so that we are able to do the things under God we have planned to do.

January Offertories	\$66,752
Offertories Budgeted	<u>\$69,893</u>
Shortfall ytd	\$ 3,141

For those wishing to give electronically the church's Bank account details are:

Bank: Westpac	Account Name: Parish of St George North General A/C
BSB: 032 158	Account No.: 268126

Last chance to register for Big Day Out!

Today is the final day to register for our upcoming Big Day Out. It would be great to see you there so please take the time to fill out a registration form or register online at www.snac.org.au/bdo now. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin at kevin@snac.org.au or 0421 286 835.

Date: Saturday 25th of March 2017

Time: Start is 9:30am. Lunch is 1pm with free time to follow

Location: Danebank School, Hurstville

Annual General Meeting

When: Tuesday night 28 March, 8pm

Where: St James' Carlton

We are coming up to that time in our calendar where we meet to elect important leadership positions in our church. At our Annual General Meeting we elect people to fill the roles of Parish Councillor, Warden, Synod Representative & Parish Nominator. Here are some answers to some common questions people ask about the AGM.

Who should come to the AGM?

Everyone who counts himself or herself a member of St George North Anglican Church. This is every member's opportunity to ask questions and be involved in the decision making of our church. If we care about the future of our church we should attend the AGM.

What do Parish Councillors and Wardens do? (one year term)

Ultimately parish councillors and wardens are similar to the 'Deacons' we read about in the New Testament. They are people who support the work of teaching and evangelism in our church. In practice that means that they are responsible for dealing with finances, property and other important matters that ensure that we as a church are equipped to do our job of making and growing disciples of Christ.

What do Parish Nominators do? (one year term)

Most years, absolutely nothing! They don't even meet once. However, in the event of something happening to the Senior Minister (or the Senior Minister leaving) they play a vital role in choosing his replacement.

What do Synod Representatives do? (three year term)

They represent our parish at the annual Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. This involves attending 5 afternoon and evening sessions over a two week period.

Am I suitable for these roles (or who should I nominate)?

There are certain requirements (see the nomination forms in your Weekly SNAC). However, the most important qualifications are godliness and Christian maturity. We need godly people with a heart for growing the kingdom of God who are willing to serve in these capacities.

Please consider if you might serve in one of these capacities and ask someone to nominate you. Please consider other people who might be appropriate and ask them if you can nominate them. While nominations can be taken right up until the actual meeting it is best if people are nominated before the night so that people can consider the positions.