

Dear MCBC family,

As we approach the most significant few days in the Christian calendar, we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who by his sacrifice, changed history in a miraculous way. As the power of God shattered the power of sin and death we were given direct access to Father God in a way that had not been possible since the first days of creation.

As we begin the journey of our 24 hours of prayer & fasting and approach Good Friday you are invited to enter into the whole story. Not skipping over the difficult and uncomfortable bits to get to the joy or remaining in those places of sadness and missing the celebration. Joining with the disciples as they experience everything from the confusion of Maundy Thursday, through the unbelievable pain of Good Friday, the devastation and disappointment of Saturday into the awesome unimaginable joy of Easter Sunday. As we commit to this journey as a faith family it is good to remind ourselves of where we start on Maundy Thursday evening.

We suggest you read Matthew 26:36-46 for the account of what happened that evening as Jesus entered the garden of Gethsemane...

We as a church are committing to spending 24 hours in prayer and fasting from 8pm on Maundy Thursday and we would encourage you to finish this time by watching MCBC's Tenebrae Service that will be available on Facebook at 8pm on Good Friday.

There are 6 different activities that have been created to aid you in your prayers and we would encourage you to share with others what you learn as you pray into these different themes and listen to the voice of God. There are also ways to be creative and we would encourage you to share pictures of your creativity with your friends and on social media. Let's let the world know that we as a faith family are praying for them.

We also recognise that these are unsettling times and some of you may be unwell, afraid, anxious or struggling to cope with the lockdown.

There is not a specific activity designed for our current Corona-virus situation but we trust that the issues of anxiety, ill health, our government and their wisdom in decision making, individuals we know of that need God's intervention at this current time, and our own needs will run through the whole 24 hours of prayer.

As we journey with Christ over the next few days we have the advantage of knowing the whole story. We know that he is as real today as he was then, that he calls us into relationship with him now as he did the disciples then, and that he reigns in power and will come again! Hallelujah!

We are praying that God will bless you and speak to you during this time,

Jonathan & Catherine