



**22nd January 2023**  
We extend a warm welcome to all  
our members, friends and visitors.



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**For meditation:** *Come, love of the Lord Jesus and demand everything from us.  
Come, presence of the Lord Jesus and transform everything around us.  
Come, breath of the Lord Jesus and heal everything within us. Amen*  
*Based on a woman's prayer of Australia's First People*

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### NEWS AND VIEWS

Today is the beginning of the Chinese New Year Festival which culminates with the Lantern Festival on 5<sup>th</sup> February. It is the Year of the Rabbit and it is a time to honour household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors – homes are ‘spring cleaned’ and there are family celebrations. Since 1990 the people have been given a week of work to enjoy this special time.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> it's Burns Night – time to eat haggis and celebrate the life and works of Robbie Burns! And ... on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> its Australia Day. A public holiday which marks the day Captain Arthur Philip and a convoy of 11 ships carrying 1500 passengers and 700 convicts came to Port Jackson. There is a growing movement to change the date to acknowledge that this was a colonisation of a country which had been home to indigenous people for up to 60,000 years.

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### POINTS FOR PRAYER

We give thanks for signs of spring despite a spell of frosty weather this week –the first snowdrops are opening and the daffodils are well above the ground. Flood waters are receding around Box but we pray for those around the country who are still dealing with flooded homes and other damage. We continue to pray for Des Cousins and Marion Richardson (now in Brunel Care Home). In the circuit we are praying for the congregation at Paulton and we continue to remember the students who are at Chapel House.

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### LECTIONARY READINGS – 29 January

Micah 6: 1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1: 18-31  
Matthew 5: 1-12

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### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The land of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali was once disgraced, but the future will bring honour to this region, from the Mediterranean eastwards to the land on the other side of the Jordan, and even to Galilee itself, where the foreigners live. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows but now light is shining on them.  
Isaiah 9: 1a - 2

### DIARY

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Café 9.30 – 2.30pm  
Soup and a roll will be served at 12 noon. All welcome

#### Sunday 29th January

There will be NO service at the church

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Memorial service for Margaret Woodland at the church at 11am

### Terra Australis

Voyage within you, on the fabled ocean,  
And you will find that Southern Continent,  
Quiros' vision – his hidalgo heart  
And mythical Australia, where reside  
All things in their imagined counterpart.

It is your land of similies: the wattle  
Scatters its pollen on the doubting heart;  
The flowers are wide-awake; the air gives ease.  
There you come home; the magpies call you Jack  
And whistle like larrikins at you from the trees.

There too the angophora preaches on the hillsides  
With the gestures of Moses; and the white cockatoo,  
Perched on his limbs, screams with demoniac pain;  
And who shall say on what errand the insolent emu  
Walks between morning and night on the edge of the  
plain?

But northward in the valleys of the fiery Goat  
Where the sun like a centaur vertically shoots  
His raging arrows with unerring aim,  
Stand the ecstatic solitary pyres  
Of unknown lovers, featureless with flame.

*A poem by Australian born poet James McAuley (1917 – 1976). An Anglican who converted to Roman Catholicism in 1952. He collaborated with Richard Connolly to produce a significant collection of Australian Catholic Hymnody entitled, "Hymns for the Year of Grace"*

*The gem cannot be polished without friction,  
nor man perfected without trials.*  
Confucius