



Why, O Lord?

LET'S FIND HOPE THIS EASTER AT ST STEPHEN'S

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Good
Friday

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Bible Reading:
Psalm 22
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Matthew 27:45-54
- Sermon
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Song
- Announcements
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's
collection is received
electronically.

BSB: 062 272

Account Number:
00490436

If you are a visitor please
don't feel obliged to
contribute financially.

Friday 3 April 2026

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

Welcome!

We're really glad you've joined us today as we reflect on Good Friday—a day that sits at the very heart of the Christian faith.



Connect Card

In Matthew 27, we hear Jesus cry out from the cross: “**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**” It's a raw and confronting moment. Here is a man in deep suffering, feeling abandoned. And yet, this is the turning point of history.

Christians believe that at the cross, Jesus was not just experiencing physical pain, but taking on the weight of human sin and brokenness—so that we might be forgiven, restored, and brought back to God. What looks like defeat is actually the moment of greatest love and rescue.

If you're exploring faith, this is the place to begin.

After the service, **please stay for morning tea and hot cross buns**—we'd love to meet you and continue the conversation.

Next Steps

Are you new? **Catch up** with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs on 14 June from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Gordon or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

The Turning Point in History | Matthew 27:45-54

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Jesus's Cry

A Dark World

A darker truth

The Crowd's Cry

Misunderstanding

Psalm 22 - A cry of victory

The Ultimate Achievement

The Centurion's Cry

Go Deeper at Home

Whether you're exploring Christianity or have followed Jesus for years, we'd love to invite you to read and reflect on the Good Friday. Please use this as a guide to help you go deeper with God over the Easter weekend, and see what Jesus' death means for you.

Read Matthew 26:47-27:56

1. From His arrest, to His trial before the Jewish court, and then before the Roman governor, to His crucifixion, and His great cry (Matt 27:46), what sorts of pain and suffering do you think Jesus experienced?
2. Think through all the characters in this real-story. What part do they play in Jesus' death? How do they treat Jesus?
 - a) Peter
 - b) Caiaphas, the high priest, and the Jewish court (the Sanhedrin)
 - c) Judas
 - d) Pilate
 - e) Barabbas
 - f) The soldiers
 - g) The centurion
3. What parts of this passage show that Jesus did not deserve to be executed? What points to this being part of God's plan?
4. If Jesus came to die in our place for our sin, in what way do we play a part in Jesus' death? Reflect on the characters in Q2—in what ways are we like Barabbas, the criminal who deserved death but got freedom because Jesus took his place?
5. Reflect on the irony of how Jesus was mocked (Matt 27:42). Why does Jesus stay on the cross if He has the power to come down?
6. The Temple curtain existed to prevent sinful people coming into the holy presence of God. What is the significance of this being torn when Jesus dies? What might it look like for you to come to God, knowing the way to Him is now open by the blood of Christ?

Notices

Alpha For Retirees

Try Alpha for Retirees—an easy, space to explore life, meaning and faith. It's a great way to meet others, share stories, and have relaxed, meaningful conversations. Each week includes food, a short video, and open discussion where you can ask anything. No pressure, no cost—just a friendly place to explore at your own pace. Not retired? You might know someone who is—why not invite them along? Details are in the flier you received with this booklet.



Playtime



‘Playtime’ at St Stephen’s Church is a playgroup for 0 to 5-year-old children and their carers.

It’s held on Tuesday mornings during school terms, 9:30am-11:30am.

We aim to provide fantastic resources and a fun, friendly atmosphere where the carers and children can relax.

The morning is made up of a half hour of singing, dancing, Bible stories, and having fun with percussion instruments and parachutes.

Morning tea and informal play runs from 10:00 am -11:00 am and include a craft activity.

The morning ends with story time.

Please bring morning tea for your child.

Coffee and tea is provided for adults.

Cost \$5 per family.

Notices

Half Past Six

'Half Past Six' meets every Friday evening during term time to explore what it means to know and love Jesus.

The program is for years 6-9 and runs from 6:30pm to 8:15pm.

We play games, hang out, have fun, laugh a lot, share our lives, learn about Jesus, explore life, pray and finish with supper.



Friday Kids

'Friday Kids' is an after-school group for kids in Kindergarten to Year 5.

It is held on Friday afternoons during school terms, from 3:30 to 5:00pm.

Friday kids is a fun, safe & meaningful afternoon for kids.

We love seeing kids and their friends from our local schools each Friday as we explore Jesus and have fun together.

The afternoon involves games, free play, afternoon tea, bible stories and craft.

It's a great place for your child to make friends, develop social skills and strengthen their spiritual health. Cost \$5 per week.



Notices

Come & See

Come & See is perfect for anyone who has done Alpha and wants to know how to live the new life they were made to live with Jesus.

Jesus made one of the biggest claims ever when he said: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

Whether you're still asking life's big questions, looking for a fresh start, or new to the Christian faith, Come & See is a chance read what the Bible says about Jesus and how to live life with him.



Sunday Services



What's Coming Up

5 April	Easter Sunday Services - 9:30am and 6pm
13 April	Come & See Starts
16 April	Alpha for Retirees Starts
24 -26 April	KYCK (Youth Camp) - registration still open
26 April	Newish Morning Tea

For more on what's happening this summer at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/autumn

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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