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## WELCOME

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Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in his living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

**New here?** We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this newsletter or send us an email to [pastor@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au) and we will get in contact with you.

**God's Word:** We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

**Prayer:** We have several places in our worship service where we pray. We believe that prayer is vitally important to our faith lives, and that God powerfully answers our prayer. If you have a specific prayer request, please let us know. We would love to pray with you.

**Community:** We are committed to our church community, even though we can't physically meet at this point in time due to COVID-19. However, many of our church growth groups continue to meet together online. If you would like to join in an online growth group, please contact [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au) and we can get you connected.

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## SERMON: JESUS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

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### John 11:1-53 (CSB)

#### LAZARUS DIES AT BETHANY

Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. 3 So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. 7 Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again."

8 "Rabbi," the disciples told him, "just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you're going there again?"

9 "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus answered. "If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him."

11 He said this, and then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on my way to wake him up."

12 Then the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well."

13 Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. 14 So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. 15 I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him."

16 Then Thomas (called "Twin" ) said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go too so that we may die with him."

## **THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). 19 Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

20 As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. 22 Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

23 "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? "

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world."

## **JESUS SHARES THE SORROW OF DEATH**

28 Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

29 As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.

32 As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died! "

33 When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you put him? " he asked.

"Lord," they told him, "come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him! " 37 But some of them said, "Couldn't he who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying? "

## **THE SEVENTH SIGN: RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD**

38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 "Remove the stone," Jesus said.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God? "

41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. 42 I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." 43 After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out! " 44 The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

## **THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS**

45 Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and were saying, “What are we going to do since this man is doing many signs? 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

49 One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! 50 You’re not considering that it is to your advantage that one man should die for the people rather than the whole nation perish.” 51 He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but also to unite the scattered children of God. 53 So from that day on they plotted to kill him. -- John 11:1-53 (CSB)

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## SERMON NOTES

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. When the disciples questioned Jesus’ decision to go to Bethany Jesus answered them with “Aren’t there 12 hours in a day?” Jesus answered. “If anyone walks during the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the light of this world. If anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him.” (John 11:9-10) What did he mean?
2. Why was Jesus glad that he wasn’t with Lazarus when he died?
3. What does it say about Thomas when he said, “Let’s go so that we may die with Him?” (11:16)
4. Why do you think that some people, even when confronted with somebody coming back from the dead still refuse to believe what their eyes have seen?
5. How could it be that God’s own priests, those who ministered before him daily in the temple could still remain so detached from the obvious signs of God?
6. We’re told that in the last days the Beast will do incredible miracles, there will even be an imitation resurrection. (Rev. 13:3) Is there a lesson here that we can learn from the priests of Jesus’ time?
7. How can we avoid falling into the trap of being too skeptical or not skeptical enough?
8. What do you think of Caiaphas’ solution, do you think there is ever a time when someone should be sacrificed for the sake of the many?

# DIARY

**Sunday 21 March**

**10:00 am** Lord's Supper Service

**10:30 am** Junior Sunday School

*Happy  
Birthday*

Monique	Trigg	14 March
Brent	Vanderjagt	16 March
Peter	Faber	17 March
Ameri	van Dyk	22 March
Leonie	Stork	24 March
Michelle	Dyer	26 March
Joash	Lichtendonk	27 March
Nick	Aitken	31 March

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*As required by Victoria Health we need to keep a record of who has been attending the church service. We have set up a QR code that you can scan when you arrive at church on which your basic information will be captured securely onto a form in Elvanto.*

*We will only use or disclose your check-in information for coronavirus (COVID-19) contact tracing. Your data will then be deleted after 28 days.*

*Your details won't be used for marketing or other purposes.*

*We will also have some volunteers with iPads to assist people who are unable to check in using their phones. It may take a bit of time to get everyone through the process so please try to be a bit earlier at church than what you would normally be.*

**VOLUNTEER  
Needed!**

**The Newsletter Team is in need of one more volunteer to assist with compiling the newsletter every week.**

Schedule is generally 2 weeks on and 4 weeks off.

If you are interested please email [newsletter@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:newsletter@wpcrc.org.au) or feel free to chat to or contact Neil Bester (Mob: 0429 569 149) or Enè Crous (Mob: 0450 211 133)

## Looking for Work

We would like to provide an opportunity for fellow congregation members to notify us if you are seeking employment so we could try and support you in the process.

Please send a confidential email to [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au). If possible please attach your resume and give us an indication of what kind of work you are looking for and your availability. As part of this we would also like potential employers or people who are aware of vacancies within their businesses to please let us know of these opportunities by using the same email address.



# JOB VACANCY

Dear colleagues in ministry,

Today I received an email from a brother in Christ, Joel Jupp, who serves as music director at the Lombard CRC in the Chicago area in the USA. In addition, he also edits documents in his other time. He is looking for someone who can be an English editor to help him, someone in Australia to cover his late night and overnight orders.

This is what he wrote to me:

**In short, I have been overworked for a very long time, and I need to find a good, trustworthy, honest, and flexible person to help me. It'd need to be someone strong in English grammar, and someone who checks their messages (so I can ask them if they want to edit). Again, it'd be paid (1-2 cents/word). I'm part of a CRC church, so my dad actually had the good idea of contacting you. Since I edit things like medical studies, I need to find trustworthy people, so we thought the CRC would be a good place to start. My issue is that if I received a document late at night, it can be easier to have someone help overseas.**

**My wife has been battling cancer, and we are very concerned of some recent tests. While I don't like talk about it, and while we hopefully pray for God to display his power, I also know that God wants me to be responsible for the sake of my family (we have three kids). Should God choose to bless us with a miracle, I would still need help either way.**

**For my full-time work, I lead worship music at Lombard CRC church. Since my wife and daughter are high risk for COVID-19, we've been in quarantine for 11 months, and I've been helping to record music and help oversee online services for the church during the pandemic. As you can imagine, that ministry also takes a lot of my focus.**

Perhaps you know of someone in your church who is looking to do some work from home, who meets some/all of the requirements Joel mentions above. I have checked out Joel's references, and can vouch for Joel with his requests/expectations. If you have someone (or several) in mind, please pass on their contact details to me, and I will personally forward them to Joel. In this way we can be of assistance to our brother, who is facing various challenges, both personally and work-wise. This might also be of good benefit to someone you know.

Please send me a quick reply, so I can do likewise in response to Joel.

May God continue to bless and guide you in all that you do in life and in ministry.

Grace and peace,

**Jack De Vries**

*Ministry Development Coach*

p. 07 3285 3678

m. 0437 339 008

e. [mtc@crca.org.au](mailto:mtc@crca.org.au)

w. [www.ministryformation.com.au](http://www.ministryformation.com.au)





It is with great pleasure that we announce that Tim and Leah have a daughter Ruth Esther Gray, born 10 March, 2.04kg at exactly 35 weeks. Mother and baby are both healthy.

### FROM THE DEACONS...

Just a note from your current serving deacon.

I am starting up the 'deacons pantry' again to assist those who could use a helping hand with keeping mouths fed when money is a bit tight.

I would love to see some of the pantry staples that most people can use.

Ideas include...coffee, tea, milo, cereals, spreads, rice, pasta, cans of fish or beans or fruit....maybe just check your own pantry for the staples you would rather not be without as an idea of what to give to others.

Sanitary / personal health, (eg hand sanitiser and disposable masks), and kitchen wraps and cleaning products are also helpful.

Yarra rd Primary will happily take some bags of groceries from us for four of their families and the rest will be distributed as we see someone who might benefit from this service.

Thank You for your love and prayers at this time. Please continue to pray and support not only me but all who have been, and who are, and who will be involved in diaconal work for our congregation.

Yours in Christ's name—Joy van Veen.



### CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2021

May 28th - May 31st 2021

a weekend retreat for women of all ages

Bungalow rooms  
with 5 beds and ensuite

visit [tivolicrc.org.au](http://tivolicrc.org.au)

wendy 0408 073 680

## FMC UPDATE



The Working Bee held on Saturday 13th March was poorly attended - only members of the FMC, Michael and Joy van Veen and Marie were there. Even though we were very short in numbers, some cleaning up around the property and the Cottage was undertaken. However, not enough was completed and hopefully when there will be the next working bee more church members can attend to maintain and improve the church property.

**We ask that you do not use the church bins for personal use.** When emptying the outside rubbish bins people are often putting their personal household rubbish, including loose food scraps, dead rabbit etc into the bins. Curtains were put into both the rubbish and recycle bins over the last few weeks. The curtains are not recycleable materials and a better solution would have been to donate them to an Op Shop where they could potentially make money for missions. Thanks for your cooperation.



*That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3 ESV*

Dear Wonderful and Wise Women of Wonga!

You are invited to morning tea at the Warrandyte Stonehouse Cafe,  
321 Ringwood- Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte.

Thursday 26th of March from 10 am.

It's an opportunity for our faith filled women, young and older,  
to share in a time of fellowship over a cuppa.

Please rsvp to Wendy 0407 801 630 or Joy 0409 199 840  
by midday, Wednesday the 25th of March.

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## NEXT PRAYER MEETING

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Tuesday evening the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at 7.30pm in the church (not on zoom).

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## PRAYER POINTS

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**Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer. — *Martin Luther***

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That the great confession of Martha will also be our confession and that we will never deviate from it.

*“Yes, Lord,” she told Him, “I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.” (John 11:27 HCSB)*

- ⇒ Give praise and thanks to God for our Lord Jesus Christ and his life on earth demonstrating the perfect image of God.
- ⇒ Please continue to pray for Tim and Leah Gray and little Ruth, pray that everything will go well and that Ruth will get a good start in life.
- ⇒ Please pray for our elderly folk, Ina de Graaf, Eveline van Dortland, Phillip and Suzanne Nel, Henk and Maria Knol, Johann and Hanna van der Walt, Corrie van der Walt as well as others.
- ⇒ Please continue to pray for our brother Thinus du Plessis, pray that the Lord will grant him the strength he needs.
- ⇒ Please continue to pray for our church, pray for healing of relationships among our members and that we will all work for unity.
- ⇒ Pray for loved ones who have turned away from the Lord or who may have never known him, pray that the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts so that they will humble themselves before him and be saved.
- ⇒ Please pray for the church in our nation, pray for all who preach the word that they will do so with integrity and seek only to preach that which the Lord lays on their hearts and is in accordance with God’s word.
- ⇒ Pray for our nation that the Holy Spirit will reclaim our nation for himself and move mightily to bring the people back to God.

Please pray for God’s people in Iran. According to the Iranian regime, Iran respects religious freedom and Christians currently serving prison sentences in Iran are not in prison because of their faith. Rather, it insists, the condemned Christians have all been found to be members of 'enemy groups' that, 'under cover of promoting Christianity', spread 'evangelical Zionism with a view to enmity and confrontation with the Islamic Establishment and subversive acts against it ...'

THE BUSHEHR EIGHT On 27 January the fourth Branch of Bushehr Court of Appeal upheld the custodial sentences against Habib Heydari (38) and brothers Sam (36) and Sasan (35) Khosravi. The three men were among a group of eight believers (four men and four women; including three married couples) arrested on 1 July 2019 in a house church in the city of Bushehr in south-west Iran. While Sam and Sasan's mother were released because of her age, the remaining seven believers were charged with 'actions against national security', 'gathering and collusion against the state' and 'membership of an illegal organisation'. They were released on bail on 16 and 17 July 2019 and sentenced on 21 June 2020. The three women/wives were hit with fines and work bans while the men received custodial sentences. Pooriya Peyma (28) was sentenced to 91 days in prison, while Habib Heydari and the Khosravi brothers were each sentenced to one year in prison, after which the Khosravi brothers must also serve two years in internal exile.

Christian convert Ebrahim Firouzi (34) has endured a decade of severe persecution. After six years in prison, five of which were spent in the notorious Rajaei Shahr prison in Karaj (a maximum-security prison housing the state's most violent criminals and terrorists), Firouzi was released on 26 October 2019 to serve a further two years in internal exile in Sarbaz County, some 1600km southeast of Tehran, in Iran's remote south-east. In September 2020 police stormed Firouzi's home in Rask village, Sarbaz County. They confiscated his laptop and mobile phone, along with the textbooks he was using to study theology online – textbooks published with the permission of the Ministry of Guidance. Subsequently, Firouzi was summoned to the local prosecutor's office to answer fresh charges of 'insulting the sacred', which carries a maximum five[1]year jail sentence and 'propaganda against the state through promoting the Christian faith', punishable by up to a year in prison. On 27 September the prosecutor threw out the charges due to lack of evidence. In early February 2021, with the



authorities still refusing to return his property, Firouzi publicly

protested his treatment in a series of videos published on the Facebook page of a Swiss-based activist. It only took days for the regime to strike back. On 7 February Ebrahim Firouzi was given five days to report to the prosecutor's office in Sarbaz city to answer the allegation that he has engaged in 'propaganda against the Islamic Republic in favour of hostile groups'; a charge which could see him returned to prison for another three years. – Elizabeth Kendal

PLEASE PRAY: MAY GOD OUR MERCIFUL FATHER ...

- sustain all Iran's incarcerated and suffering Christians, especially for the 'Bushehr Eight': for Habib, Sam and Sasan as they commence their custodial sentences; and for Khatoun (Sam and Sasan's mother) and the wives and children left behind; may the Spirit of the Lord provide comfort, faith and peace, and the 'rest' (Matthew 11:28) that comes from trusting the God who is faithful and may Jehovah Jireh (God our provider) sustain them in every way.
- intervene on behalf of the long-suffering and faithful Ebrahim Firouzi; may he be assured of the Lord's eternal presence and sustaining grace; may Firouzi's 'light' (Matthew 5:14-16) continue to shine brightly despite all efforts by the regime-of-darkness to suppress it.
- And may the Lord Jesus Christ continue to build His Church in Iran. 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts' (from Zechariah 4:6 ESV).

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## STATE YOUTH SERVICE — EQUIP NIGHT

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VICTORIAN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES YOUTH

# EQUIP NIGHT

SUNDAY 21st MARCH

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

251-253 YARRA ROAD, WONGA PARK

## "FEASTING ON THE WORD"

WORKSHOPS

### YOUTH

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE  
FOR ALL ITS WORTH

### PARENTS

WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE  
WITH YOUR FAMILY

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## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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### ELDERS

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#### **Pastor**

Chris Pretorius  
0423 889 913  
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

#### **Youth Pastor**

Tim Gray  
0448 660 291  
youth@wpcrc.org.au

#### **Chairman and Worship Services**

Peter Williams  
0431 500 006

#### **Finance**

Lourens Geldenhuys  
0409 990 398

#### **Growth Groups**

Jack Organtzoglou  
0403 377 559  
Margreet Day  
0491 117 900

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### GROWTH GROUPS

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We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact **Annandra Kock** on **0407 405 555** to get connected to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Evenings  
Wednesday Evenings (Young Adults)  
Thursday Mornings (Women's Bible study)  
Thursday Evenings  
Friday Evenings (GEMS, and Youth Group)

### DEACONS

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Joy Van Veen  
0409 199 840

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### ADMINISTRATION

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#### **Session Clerk & Church**

##### **Administrator**

Annandra Kock  
Mondays 9am-3pm  
clerk@wpcrc.org.au  
or  
admin@wpcrc.org.au  
0407 405 555

#### **Newsletter Editors**

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au  
Neil Bester  
0429 569 149  
Enè Crous  
0450 211 133

#### **Treasurer**

Nelleke Arnold  
treasurer@wpcrc.org.au  
0448 469 569

#### **Child Safe Coordinator**

Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

#### **Facilities Management**

Rob De Reus  
0407309257

### MINISTRY LEADERS

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#### **Prayer Ministry**

prayer@wpcrc.org.au  
Herman Linde  
0411 069 808

#### **Music Ministry**

Mia Van Wyk  
0420 817 800

#### **Sunday School Coordinator**

Nicky Bester  
0439 084 987

#### **Audio Visual**

Cassie Van Veen  
0499 230 872

#### **Crèche ministry**

Abigail Remminga  
0497 370 820

#### **GEMS**

(primary aged girls group)  
Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

#### **Kids Hope Coordinator**

Enè Crous  
0450 211 133

#### **CAP Money Course**

Neil Bester  
0429 569 149  
Martin Van der Merwe  
0458 908 14

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## GIVING

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In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various ministry organisations we support. If you would like to support this work you can do so in a few different ways:

**In church giving:** Simply add your offering to the offering bag.

**Bank Transfer: BSB:** 063 167 **Acc:** 1015 8356. For the Deacons **BSB:** 063167 **Acc.** 1015 8372

**Via Church App:** Online or via our church app: <https://wpcrc.org.au/give>