

Today in Christian History

Sunday 3 Feb, 1788

The first Christian sermon in Australia by Chaplain Richard Johnson

At the Circular Quay end of Castlereragh Street on the corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets in a little square, there's a monument – passed by and unread by hundreds of people every day.

Imagine you are standing in that spot, but instead of looking up at the tall buildings, and hearing the noise of the cars and the buses, there are just trees. You are in a wilderness. It is very near that spot on Sunday 3rd February 1788, the first Christian church service was held in the Colony of New South Wales

Just imagine it... Out in the harbour are moored the eleven ships of the First Fleet, having carried just over a thousand people from Southampton. There's the Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip, 20 officials and their servants, 213 marines with some wives and children, more than 750 convicts – one chaplain and his wife – as well as one eternal optimist – a certain James Smith, the man who had stowed away on the First Fleet!

The Fleet has taken 36 weeks to reach Botany Bay – and they arrive just four days before the two French frigates commanded by la Perouse. After a few days, on January 26, they transfer the site of the new colony to Farm Cove in Port Jackson.

As the chaplain opens the Word of God, what message will he give to this new nation after such a difficult journey? The psalm set for that day in the Book of Common Prayer is most appropriate, so he turns to Psalm 116 verse 12 –

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He has done for me?”

Richard Johnson rarely figures at all in history lessons. He is a man very much after our own heart, and from whom we can learn a great deal. He was a pioneer of education in NSW, concerned for the education of all children – whether they belong to convicts or to freemen. By March 1792, he had set up schools in Sydney, Parramatta and on Norfolk Island. By 1798, the school in Sydney (which is also commemorated by a plaque in on the corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets) had 150 students.

He and his wife had a special desire to befriend the Aborigines – who were being dispossessed of their land. The Johnsons symbolically gave their daughter, born in 1792, an Aboriginal name – Milbah.

He was also responsible for the setting up of a fund to care for orphans, and travelled to Parramatta regularly to hold services for the settlers there.



Moss Vale Uniting Church
Rev Kathryn Wyndham—48681134
568 Argyle Street Moss Vale

All mail to: PO Box 253 Moss Vale NSW 2577

Phone: (02) 4868 2890 Email: mvuniting@bigpond.com

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WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER
MOSS VALE UNITING CHURCH

UNITING ONE
UNITING ALL

**Welcome to all who join with us in
worship today:
Sunday 4 February 2018**

**Communion Service led by
Rev Kathryn Wyndham**



LECTIONARY READINGS

Week ending 4 Feb 2018

Is 40:21-31

Ps 147:1-11, 20c

1 Cor 9:16-23

Mk 1:29-39

Week ending 11 Feb 2018

2 Kgs 2:1-12

Ps 50:1-6

2 Cor 4:3-6

Mk 9:2-9

Audio Hearing Loop is installed in this church
Use 'T' switch. Portable listening devices also available.

Your Church Diary

THIS WEEK

- Sun 4 Feb** **Communion Service** led by Rev Kathryn Wyndham at 9:30am
Special Project supports SRE Southern Highlands today.
- Mon 5 Feb** **Craft** resumes for 2018 today from 10am—12 noon in the Brian Wellington Room
- Tue 6 Feb** **Prayers for the life of our Church** at 8am
Playgroup from 9:30am—11:30am
Bible Study at The Manse at 2:00pm

NEXT WEEK

- Sun 11 Feb** **Service** led by Rev Kathryn Wyndham at 9:30am
Scripture Teachers Commissioning Service commencing at 5:30pm at St Jude's Anglican Church Auditorium, Bowral
- Tue 13 Feb** **Prayers** for the life of our Church at 8am
Playgroup from 9:30am to 11:30am
Bible Study at The Manse at 2:00pm
Pancake Day Lunch Mittagong UC from 12 noon (see notice next page)
- Sat 17 Feb** **Illawarra Presbytery Rally** commencing at 2:00pm in Wollongong

It would be great if Moss Vale Uniting Church could be represented at the Illawarra Presbytery Rally on Saturday 17 February commencing 2:00pm. If you would like to attend, please let Kathryn know.

Thank you

Thank you to those who have worked in the garden this week and also to those who hosted our Moss Men dinner on Thursday night. Thank you also to those who regularly are rostered to serve us each month. We are blessed by your contributions.
Rev Kathryn

Church Notices

Playgroup

Homestart Playgroup resumes this week from 9:30am to 11:30am on Tuesday 6 February 2018

Use of Hall/Rooms

For anyone planning an event in the church hall, please consult the Hall Usage notices which are placed around the church. There is one in the porch, one in the Brian Wellington Room beside the door of the office and one in the kitchen under the clock. There is also an up to date diary in the office.

If you need help please ask Lucy Ph: (4869 2041).

Pancake Day Lunch at Mittagong UC

Mittagong UC are holding a Pancake Day lunch at 12 noon on Tuesday 13 February. A nice variety of pancakes to select from. Cost is \$10 per head with proceeds to UnitingCare. All welcome. RSVP Lucy on 4869 2041 by 10 February. Thank you

Scripture Teachers Commissioning Service

Next Sunday, 11 February at 5:30pm come along to pray for and support our SRE teachers Luke Wyllie and Donna Jensen and our many primary SRE volunteers at St Jude's Anglican Church Auditorium, Bowral.

Lenten Study

Lent begins on Wednesday 14 Feb. Please consider signing up to participate in a small group during this season. Please see separate flyer.



No birthdays or anniversaries that we know of this week.