

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Palm Sunday, 2.30 pm - Stainer's
Crucifixion presented by *The Melbourne*
Singers.

Holy Wednesday, 12.30 - 1.00 pm Holy
Communion

Maudy Thursday, 8.00 pm *Tenebrae*

Good Friday, 9.30 am (followed by hot cross
buns at the manse)

Easter Day, 10.00 am Holy Communion.

'Centre for Christianity in Society'

The Centre is now a reality! The Elders & Parish Council recently resolved 'to establish a centre for the study of Christianity and society as an integral part of the mission of the congregation'. The Rev. Dr. Max Champion was appointed as Director 'as part of his ministerial responsibilities in the Armadale congregation'. He is an *ex officio* member of the Board, which will be chaired by Dr. Owen Parnaby and includes people from the congregation and Presbytery. Other Board members are Deaconess Lesley McMullin, Ian Thomas, Bill Rush, David Fallick, Rev. Ross Carter (Brighton) and Rev. Kim Groot (Hampton).

The Centre Office is being set up in the vestry, from where the program of courses, seminars, lectures and studies will be organised. The cost of speakers, secretary, computer, stationery and publicity is being met by the judicious use of generous bequests left specifically for ministry and mission by the Armadale congregation. In 1999 the Board has been given approval to spend no more than \$8,000, the bulk of which will be for computer, part time secretarial assistance

and keynote speaker for a winter or spring series of addresses and discussions.

Sale of Denbigh Rd. Church

The sale of the property, possibly in May, is being arranged by local real estate agents Bennison-MacKinnon. According to the terms of sale, Armadale congregation has the right to use or dispose of liturgical fittings, stained glass windows, organ, etc. as it sees fit. Bruce and Lesley McMullin have made a comprehensive inventory of these items, and quotes are being sought for the cost of removing windows and the value of organ.

New Structure for Church Councils

The 1997 National Assembly decided to replace Parish Councils and Elders Councils with one '*Church Council*'. In order to conform to this change and vote for the membership of the new council, a brief *Congregational Meeting* will be held after church on *11 April*. There will also be an update on the 'Centre' and news of other Assembly changes.

Liturgical 'luminations'

* *Lenten Banner*. This work by Lyn Ferguson is based on images of *Psalm 103* and depicts the two sides of forgiveness - our separation from, and reconciliation by, God. The figure in 'the Pit' is helpless, isolated and dependent on God's mercy. The parable of the prodigal son, in which the compassionate father welcomes his derelict and penitent son, signifies reconciliation. As for us, the path home is zigzagged. The flowers symbolise the transience of life. In the centre is the crucifixion, the ultimate symbol of God's

love. The surrounding light represents the resurrection, which gives us hope and reminds us that we all need to forgive and be forgiven.

**Easter Candle*

On Easter Day we will share an ecumenical tradition by lighting an Easter candle. On Maundy Thursday all lights in the Church are extinguished to symbolise the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion. The lighting of the Easter Candle symbolises for us the truth that death was not the last word about Jesus but that he was raised to new life. On the candle are the Greek letters 'alpha' and 'omega' - the beginning and the end - which point to God's action for us in Christ. The year 1999 is inscribed around the cross to symbolise the fact that we, too, are part of the great crowd of witnesses to Christ's death and resurrection. The magnificent wooden stand has been crafted by Bill Coxhell.

Ecumenical Service with Holy Advent Anglican Church

Change to arrangements for the combined service! Instead of meeting on Pentecost Sunday we will worship together the next Sunday - *Trinity Sunday, 30 May* at the Uniting Church. Fr. Val Rogers will be the preacher.

Visit by the President-elect of the Uniting Church in Australia

The Rev. Prof. James Haire, Principal of Trinity Theological College, Brisbane and the next President of the Church, will be our preacher on *Sunday, 5 September, 10 am*. Mark the date in your diary now!