

The Oyster



*...Because it's easier than saying *Saccostrea glomerata**

Tanilba CRC Newsletter, March 2014

An Easy Jesus

David Trounce

You may have noticed the flurry of religious movies heading to a Cinema near you.

We are getting close to Easter and, as one Hollywood Producer said, "There's an untapped and profitable market here."

Profiteering from religion aside, what should we make of these kinds of movies?

One of those movies is titled "The Son of God". By the time you read this it will be in Cinemas.

Producer Mark Burnett has said, "It is Jesus for a whole new generation."

This makes you wonder what the problem was with the Jesus of the previous generation, which leads me to the point of mentioning any of this in the first place. How many Jesus' are there, and where can I go to find the real one?

There is only one Jesus, and in this movie (like all others of the same genre) this guy isn't the One.

The Jesus we are being offered in this latest round of Faith Flicks is an unsurprising, effeminate, anaemic mystic.



He is not the firebrand we meet in the Bible.

Jesus (the real Jesus) said, "Follow me." But not many are even likely to follow this Portuguese Hippie Jesus with a weird British accent up an escalator, let alone trust that He can resurrect the dead.

So, why is the film so likely to be successful, especially given that most thinking Christians will not even bother going?

It will be successful because deep down we want a Saviour. We want someone to beat the system.

We want someone to crush the oppressor and deliver us from our enemies – and this Jesus is easier to say yes to.

The problem is that this movie has latched on to the wrong enemy and – consequently – the wrong Jesus. The real enemy is sin and only the real Jesus can deliver from sin's eternal consequences.

Life and Death in the Public Square

“Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19-20)

By David Trounce

The fight for the survival of any culture is a fight for the public square. If you can control what gets said there, if you can dictate the religion of the public square, you can dictate the culture that flows from it.

That is what 'culture' is. It is the 'cultus' or religious life and rule of the public square.

Christianity is a public religion. But from time to time the world wants to legislate that religion be made a private affair.



For example, recent legislation in some U.S. states has been introduced in order to limit the expression of religion to the private sphere.

“One may practise one’s religion in private; however, once a religious person comes into the public arena, there are limitations in how the expression of their religion impacts others,” (Director, ACLU).

The same sentiment can be found in legislation that the ICCPR in Australia signed onto back in 1980. People want us to keep religion out of the public square, or, more pointedly, people want to keep Jesus out of the public square.

But, if the world had wanted the church to keep quiet about Jesus it should have thought of that before it crucified Him publicly. The death of Jesus was a public event. He did not die in His sleep; nor was He murdered in some back alley.

Openly and before all the world, this Jesus was crucified, and equally public was His resurrection from the dead, and we cannot escape it.

In the coming weeks, Jesus will once again be the central figure in the public square. You will be thinking about Him, hearing about Him, and quite possibly troubled by His presence.

No amount of chocolate rabbit will smother the Christ-haunted reality of Easter, and this reality will, as it does every year, demand a response. Some will respond in defiance. Some will plead ignorance. Some will pretend to be indifferent, and others indignant about His presence in the public square.

Some will see in Him the satisfaction and longing of their souls. Others will die in their sleep and go on to meet Him personally to give an account of their lives.

What part will you play in the drama, and what will your response be?

News, Views and Events

Money, Debt and Getting Help with CAP

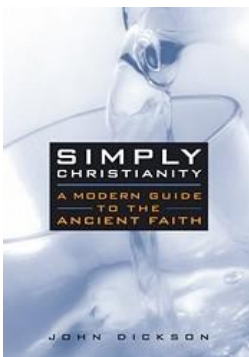
CAP Money is a free money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that really works. The course will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, save, give and prevent or overcome debt. For more info visit www.capmoney.org or call Don on 49824507.



What's it All About?

Learn about the Christian Faith

Most people have an opinion about the Bible and the Christian faith it teaches, but not everyone has had the opportunity to learn why it is that this faith endures, and why over the last two thousand years since the birth of Jesus, it has only ever known increase around the world.



Why do so many people believe the Bible and seek to follow its teachings – even (in some cultures) at the risk of their own lives?

What does the Bible actually teach? Is it reliable?

'Simply Christianity' is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to gather around a table together and ask these and many more questions about the Christian faith.

These small and friendly Groups are open to anyone and meet over five sessions with plenty of opportunity to explore the meaning of the Bible, its authenticity, its impact on our lives and the reliability of the Claims of its central character – Jesus of Nazareth.

If you would like to know when these groups are being held in your neighbourhood, please

Call David Trounce on 49845442 for more info.

World Day of Prayer

Friday, 7th March. 11am at the Uniting Church

All are welcome to attend.

Women's Get Together

Join with other local women at their first Friday of the month evening dinner and chat on 7th March at 7pm. Tanilba CRC church hall. Call Ella on 49824507

Help a Local Family

Do you know of a family in need. Are you a Family in Need? Please Call Ella on 49824507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the Month.

At Henderson Park.

7.30am

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about the Christian Church on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

At the church. 7pm.
All Welcome.

Social Groups

Make New Friends.
Soup Nights, Kite Flying,
Cricket, BBQ'S, Day Trips,
Family Games and more.
Join one of our Social
Community Groups in Lemon
Tree Passage or Tanilba Bay.
These Groups are open to all and
meet in February, May, August
and November each year.

Weekly Bible Study Groups

We run two Bible Study Groups.
Our Family Bible Study and
Supper Group meets at 4pm on
most Sundays at Mallabula.
Our Ladies' Bible Study Group
also meets at Mallabula on
Fridays at 10am.

Men's Breakfast

Come join other local men in our
Community for a Hot Breakfast
on the 1st Saturday of the month.
All are welcome and we meet
at 7.30am at Henderson Park,
Lemon Tree Passage.

Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women
and meets on the first Friday in
each month, March to December.
Starts at 7pm in the church hall,
Tanilba Bay.
Come share a meal and a
conversation on a Friday Night.

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Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au