

The Oyster

"....In which we find one Pearl."



April 2015

At the Funeral

By David Trounce

Most of us have attended at least one funeral, and, if you have attended more than one, then you have probably noticed a pattern emerge. The pattern I have in mind has to do with what people are willing to say about those who have passed away.

You will notice, more often than not, that no matter how big of a scoundrel the person may have been in life, in their death we feel compelled to stick as closely as possible to the good stories.

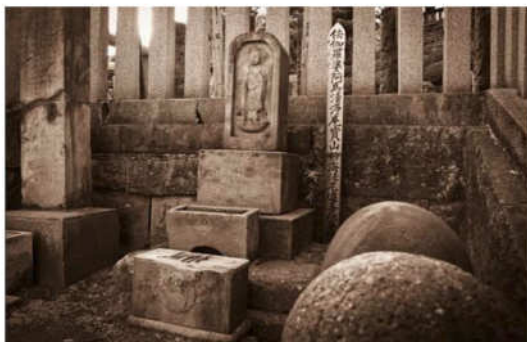
I have walked away from a number of these funerals wondering if we weren't all just kidding ourselves.

We all know that the scoundrel in question did not lead a productive life, or was not a gentle parent, wife, mother, brother, etc.

Yet, we feel compelled to bury this information on this their final farewell.

Perhaps you have felt the inconsistency but decided to let bygones be bygones. After all, who wants to be the one to tell that side of the story of the person's life?

Who wants to dig up the real story with all its ugly bumps and gnarly bits?



Maybe the reason we don't bring this stuff to light is that we are, perhaps unconsciously, aware of a deeper reality.

Maybe we don't put other people's sins on display because at the deepest level we all recognise one of life's most unstoppable realities: Death puts an end to wrong-doing. Death puts an end to any further sin.

In fact, death is the *only* thing that puts an end to sin.

But since death does that, since it puts an end to further wrong doing, then what do we have left to say about it? Like the grave stones that surround us, we are silent.

This reality exists for us because Jesus died, and when He died, He took sin down to the grave with Him, but for that to be of any benefit to me, it has to be believed.

So we have a choice this Easter. We can take our sins to the grave with us, and then try to explain all the overhead baggage to God upon arrival, or we can surrender the baggage now, to Jesus, who took it to the cross, never to speak of it again.

Aren't All Religions the Same?

*"There is a way that seems to be right, but in the end it leads to death."
(Proverbs 14:12)*

So, last month, on the 22nd of March, it was Harmony Day. The Day is an attempt to encourage people to drop their differences and find a place of agreement in the world.

That was on Sunday. On Monday we resumed our efforts to train young men for war.

It is a wonderful idea, a world where we all get along. It's something that man has wanted since Adam. So, why aren't we there yet?



The problem is not the intention. We all want peace and quiet around here. The thing that keeps us from true peace is that we are all religious, and, despite what people say, all religions are not the same.

All religions claim to have the truth. They claim to be 'the way'. That includes the secular religion of those who say they have no religion. They want peace, and the right way for them is '*their way*'.

All religions claim exclusivity by definition. The Buddhist says that the goal is to quench all desire, reject permanence and dissolve into the ether. The Christian hope is that our deepest desires are satisfied in the resurrection and the gift of eternal life, and that we become more permanent than ever.

The Hindu sees a universe in a state of constant flux and change, but always going in circles. The Christian sees a world in decay, but under transformation, and heading towards glorious perfection.

The Muslim sees earth as temporary, and the goal is to get out of here and up in to heaven, where the really good times can begin.

All of these religions are totally incompatible with each other. Either the world is heading somewhere glorious, or it's in an ever-spinning cycle, going nowhere. Either we are becoming more permanent or less permanent. Either Heaven is our final home or else it is the earth, remade, transformed and resurrected, and when we compare these world views with the men who gave them to us – Jesus Christ, Mohammed, Siddhartha Gautama and the like – only one man's testimony has ever been authenticated by the witness of history. He did it by raising Himself from the Dead.

News and Events

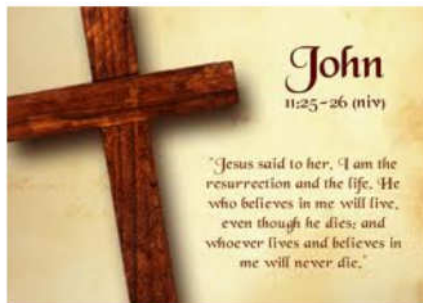
Easter Services

9am Good Friday April 3rd

9am Easter Sunday April 5th

Corner of Peace Parade and Tanilba Avenue

ALL WELCOME



April Fools

The best explanation I have ever heard of the origins of April Fools Day was provided by Joseph Boskin, a professor of history at Boston University.

He explained that the practice began during the reign of Constantine, when a group of court jesters and fools told the Roman emperor that they could do a better job of running the empire.

Constantine, amused, allowed a jester named Kugel to be king for one day.

Kugel passed an edict calling for absurdity on that day, and the custom became an annual event.

"In a way," explained Prof. Boskin, "it was a very serious day. In those times fools were really wise men. It was the role of jesters to put things in perspective with humour."

This explanation was brought to the public's attention in an Associated Press article printed by many newspapers in 1983.

There was only one catch: Boskin made the whole thing up. It took a couple of weeks for Associated Press to realize that they had been victims of an April Fools' joke themselves.

What's on This Month

Women's Get Together

The local get together for women resumes on

Friday May 1st, 7pm,

Tanilba CRC Church,

Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay.

Call Ella on 4982 4507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at

Henderson Park, Cook Pde, Lemon Tree Passage.

This month it will be on Saturday April 4th 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 our Church's activities 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.

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 each month (but not
this April) in the church hall,
Tanilba Bay.

Come share a meal and a
conversation on a Friday Night.

Weekly Bible Study Group

Our Ladies' Bible Study Group
meets at Mallabula on
Fridays at 10am.

Published By Tanilba CRC.

Christian Reformed Church

02 4984 5442

Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au