

# SCARBOROUGH BULLETIN

*What is happening at Scarborough Baptist Church?*

**Easter Sunday - a reminder of God's love for us**

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**PRAYER:**

Jesus' prayer echoes in our world today



## Christ, the Lord, is risen today!

On this rather strange Easter weekend - greetings to everyone! Somehow it doesn't feel like Easter - in fact, we are even sometimes at odds trying to remember what day of the week it is at the moment.

But it's a joy to know that whatever we *feel* like, Jesus still loved the world, died on the cross and rose again, defeating death once and for all. And now we all have the opportunity to become his children, to follow him and gain access to eternal life.

Think of the many Easters that have passed since that Crucifixion day - Easters during the Crusades, the Pandemic of the Spanish Flu, during World Wars.

The truth of Easter is timeless and is not dependent on what's happening in the world. This year, once again, let's focus our thoughts on the Lord, Jesus Christ and his resurrection from death.

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Monday morning Bible study** will be at 9.30am online this week. The link will appear in the **calendar** on the web page.  
**Monday evening Bible study** will be on tomorrow evening at 7pm. The link for this is on the **calendar** on the website.  
**Brighton Kids** will still be on the go this week.

**Offering:** Please consider arranging an EFT as we have no other means of doing our offering at present. Our bank details: Scarborough Baptist Church - BSB 306-054 Account number 4186613





## THE DISTURBING PRAYER

Mark 14:36 "Abba, Father" he said, "Everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me."

In this verse Easter is shown to also encompass the riddle of unanswered prayer. Jesus' prayer to the Father "who can do everything", asking him to save him from the coming crucifixion, must surely stand as the most significant unanswered prayer in history. That the Evangelist dared to put it here, just before the end of his gospel, is audacious. The episode sets up deep questions about the kind of God we encounter in the Bible. God is depicted as being unresponsive to Jesus' call for help, either uncaring or impotent, seemingly unwilling or unable to intervene and save Jesus from his shameful fate.

The unanswered prayer of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane can perhaps be said to represent all the unanswered prayers throughout history - the prayers said by distraught parents at the deathbed of their little child, and the prayers of distraught children for a dying parent. It reflects the dashed hopes of all those



who so fervently believed that God was on their side, that God always wanted the best for them and who then had to face the harsh reality of a seemingly cold, indifferent silence from the One they had trusted.

So why does Mark relate the difficult issue of Jesus' unanswered prayer so close to the climax of his gospel? Because Mark, as we have suggested, clearly believed that this unanswered prayer tells us something significant about God. Mark does not spell the significance out; he simply tells the story and let his readers draw their conclusions. But the conclusions are inevitable if we read the story closely. It tells of a God who turned his back on his Son, who denied his cry for help, for the sake of His commitment to an evil world, the very world who would crucify His only Son.

But what does this tell us about our own unanswered prayers? A full solution still seems far from us. The unanswered prayer of Jesus does, however, at the very least, tell us that God is radically for us; that the silence we face when our prayers are not answered is not because God does not care. The God who had turned his back on His Son to save us, is always radically for us. We should remember that Mark ends his gospel with Easter Sunday - God's final answer to all our prayers.