

ST TOM'S

APRIL NEWS

*'Here is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of
the world!'*

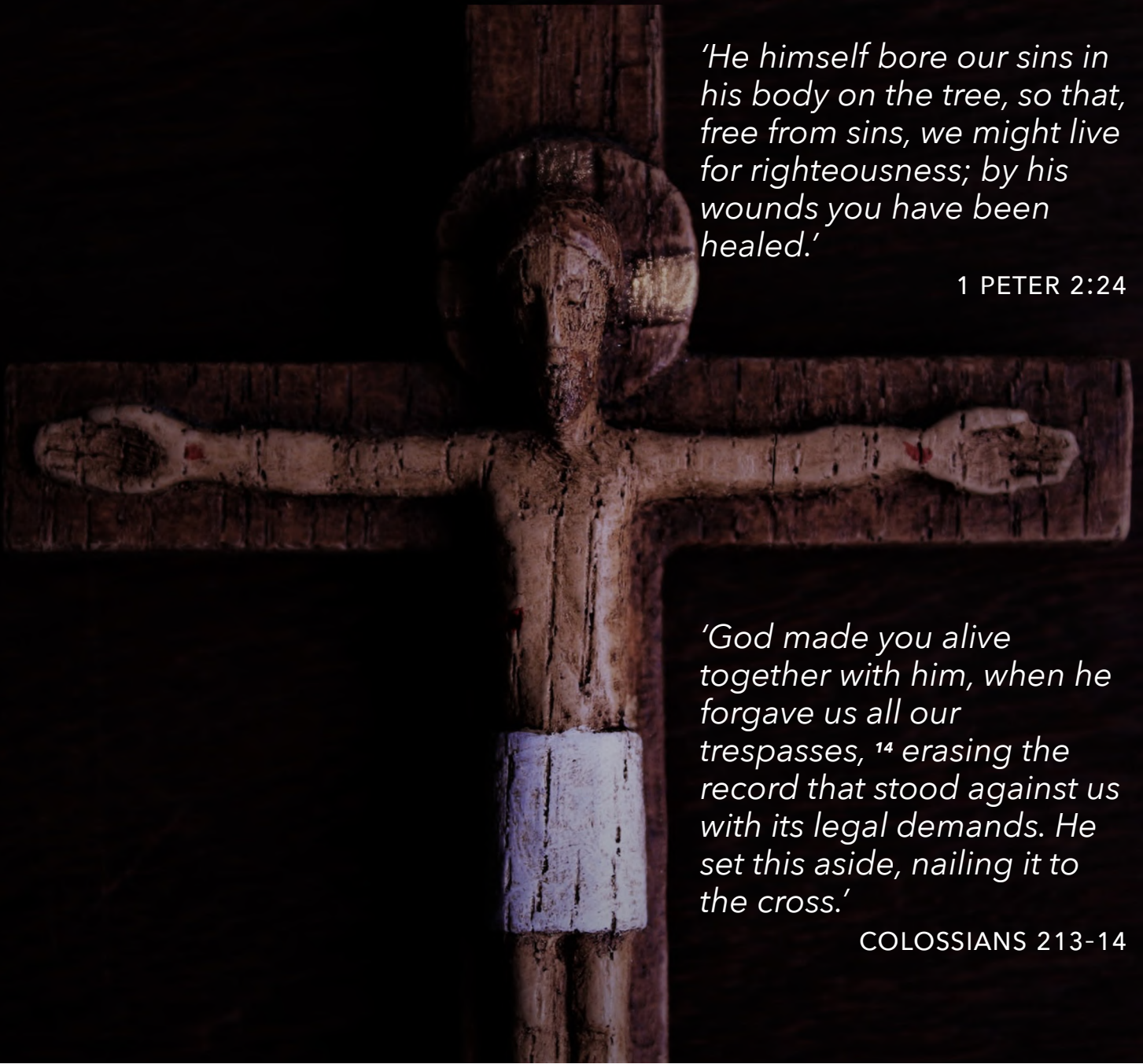
JOHN 1:29

*'He himself bore our sins in
his body on the tree, so that,
free from sins, we might live
for righteousness; by his
wounds you have been
healed.'*

1 PETER 2:24

*'God made you alive
together with him, when he
forgave us all our
trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the
record that stood against us
with its legal demands. He
set this aside, nailing it to
the cross.'*

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14





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APRIL SERMON SERIES

Lent has been a season of fasting, reorganising our lives around the call to the cross. That season is forty days - but it is a mistake to guess that forty days of fasting ends in one or two days of feasting. Easter is its own season of celebrating, and calls for a substantial enjoyment of the unconquered goodness of God's world, as it is redeemed by Jesus' dying and rising. You are encouraged to enter Easter in fasting, and go forth feasting!

SERIES	DATE	TITLE / INFO	SCRIPTURE	PREACHER
Easter	7 Apr	Good Friday	John 18-19	Paul Barker
Easter	9 Apr	Easter Day	Matthew 28:1-10	Joshua Millard
Easter	16 Apr	Dance of Doubt	John 20:19-31	Joshua Millard
Easter	23 Apr		1 Peter 1:13-25	John Carrick
Mission Sunday - City to City	30 Apr	Adopted by God	Galatians 3:26-4:7	Rod Morris

For additional readings see [2023 Planner & Sermon Series](#) on Elvanto or request a copy by emailing admin@sttoms.org

REFLECTION - JOEY CHAN



In my elementary school days, the most common essay topic was "What do I want to be when I grow up?". For the first time in my memory, I said, "I want to be president when I grow up. (Of course, back then I didn't have any political views or knowledge, and even now I don't care much about politics.) As I grew up, I realised that wasn't very practical, and when the topic came up again, I think I wrote about becoming a school principal and later, it was changed to something like a teacher. In fact, our goal changes as we get older.

I wonder what Jesus would have written in his essay "What I want to be when I grow up"? I want to be a servant who serves, I want to be the lamb of atonement who lays down his life for others.

"even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt 20:28).

Jesus Christ knew exactly why he came, both as a child and as an adult. He knew exactly what his mission was when he came to earth. I once saw a poster that said The Purpose of Christmas is Good Friday. Jesus does not change his purpose as we get older. When we graduate from college, we just want to survive and have a stable job, there is no longer any dream to speak of. But if suddenly a person says to you: you just have to worship me and I will give you any position you want and more money than you can imagine. If you had such an opportunity, would you worship him?

Our Lord, He chose the path of suffering. He did not choose to submit to Satan for

a moment in order to gain the glory and riches of the world.

Jesus knew the purpose of his coming into the world, and he knew the time and the way of God. That he would become the Passover Lamb and bear the sin debt of the world. He did not choose a shortcut, but continued on the way of the cross.

Brothers and sisters, what is most indispensable in our ministry?

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Matt 16:24).

For the hope of our zealous ministry is to be glorified with Christ on that day. (Romans 8:17) The resurrection of Jesus has overcome the world, death, and sin. Therefore, do we need to be afraid of suffering? We do not need to worry about giving, we only worry about losing our passion for ministry.

Paul told Timothy that ministry needs the fire of "passion" to burn.

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Tim 1:6-7).

He told Titus that the fire of this "passion" comes from God Himself. Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous (passion) for good works (Titus 2:14). Amen.

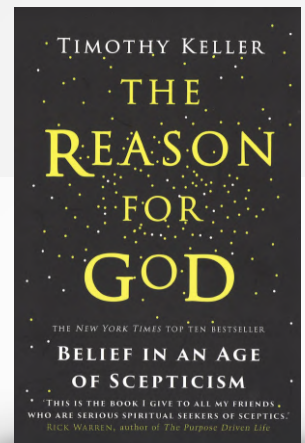
Joey

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Reason for God

Timothy Keller

Why does God allow suffering in the world?
How could a loving God send people to Hell?
Why isn't Christianity more inclusive?
How can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"?
Why have so many wars been fought in the name of God?



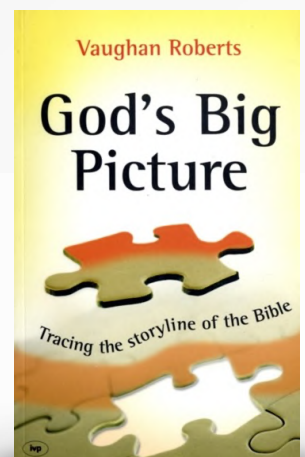
As the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, Timothy Keller has compiled a list of the most frequently voiced "doubts" skeptics bring to his church as well as the most important reasons for faith. And in the New York Times bestselling *The Reason for God*, he addresses each doubt and explains each reason.

Keller uses literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and reasoning to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly rational belief, held by thoughtful people of intellectual integrity with a deep compassion for those who truly want to know the truth.

God's Big Picture

Vaughn Roberts

Sixty-six books, forty authors, written over nearly 2,000 years, in many different genres. A worldwide best-seller published in countless translations and languages. A book that has been sworn by in court, fought over, and quoted in arguments. Clearly, the Bible is no ordinary book.



The *God's Big Picture* Bible overview course traces the story of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation to see how it all fits together, telling of God's wonderful plan to save the world through Jesus Christ. Find out more [here](#).

EASTER AT ST TOM'S

EASTER AT ST TOM'S

GOOD FRIDAY 7TH APRIL 2023

9AM - COMBINED ENGLISH & CHINESE SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2023

8.30AM - TRADITIONAL ENGLISH SERVICE

10.30AM - FAMILY ENGLISH SERVICE

10.30AM - COMBINED CANTONESE/MANDARIN



MISSION NEWS

CHINESE CHRISTIAN MISSION AUS.



澳洲中國信徒佈道會

Chinese Christian Mission Australia Inc.

Thank you for supporting our missionaries with your prayers, financial support and acts of love in their missionary service in rural and urban Australia over the years.

Chung-Ming Tang and Shu-Lian Liang have been serving the Chinese in rural Australia since 2016 reaching out to the Chinese community in the catering and retail industries.

They have also encouraged the local Western churches to develop Chinese ministry, thanks be to God! And we are grateful that St. Barnabas Anglican Church has established a group of Chinese believers with the help of the missionaries.

Chung-Ming Tang and Shu-Lian Liang were subsequently led by God to Dubbo in late February 2020 to continue their work in reaching out to the Chinese with the Gospel. Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been able to make use of video conferencing and other digital tools to continue ministering to the Chinese, including young professionals and students in the area. They have also formed a youth group and facilitated missionary training to equip others to carry on the work. Gradually, Dubbo has become a missionary training ground.

We thank God for His faithful servants, whose years of service have influenced and built up many believers among the Chinese community in rural areas of Australia.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

PLAYGROUPS



What a wonderful and full term 1 we have had! It is just gorgeous having so many babies at playgroup...look who we get to cuddle each week! How precious it is to connect with the kids, play and see them grow. It's so great to have a group of St Tom's parents coming along too. There are so many wonderful conversations and friendships to have. Parenting and caregiving isn't easy, it can be isolating. Its great St Tom's can be part of the solution of connection and care.

TOM'S CREW

We have had a wonderful start to Tom's Crew this year. Each week we are encouraged at the way the children enthusiastically connect with each other, and eagerly want to learn about Jesus. We have a lot of fun too; we've made slime, had a smoothie bar, thought about Jesus and Peter walking on water and explored other stories from Matthew's gospel.

We would love some of you to consider being a chef for Tom's Crew. If you can put together a simple BBQ for 12-15 kids and a couple of hungry leaders, I would love to hear from you. If you can heat up some pizzas in an oven and cut up some veggie sticks and put some ice cream in a cone, I would love to hear from you. We need some cooks to help on a Thursday evening! Hospitality is an important part of Christian ministry - it builds friendships not only between the kids but also with the children and adults. Please get in touch with me if you can help.



MESSY CHURCH

We are blessed to be a blessing. Our first Messy Church for the year was an opportunity for the children with their families to explore how we use our Time, Talent and Treasure and how we can use these gifts to bless others. (2 Cor 9: 6-11) Blessed to be a blessing.

We had a lot of fun turning Messy Church into a mini 'market place' with tokens to spend and earn. For some children this may have been their first opportunity to think about how they would use their tokens or money. For some, it was challenging and for others, a time to be generous and share their resources! We hope families are able to keep the conversation going about how all of us can use our resources to bless others.

We had a number of families join us from our playgroups and Tom's Crew. Please continue to pray for good connections, and for all of us to invite friends and family who might enjoy exploring church in this different and creative way



COMMUNITY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!



A big congratulations to Susan Guo and Theo Davies who recently got engaged! We look forward to celebrating their marriage in early 2024.

EUCALYPTS



Eucalypts will meet this month on Thursday April 13 at 1pm. We will have toasties for lunch, and I will talk about some of the work I will be doing at St Edward's and how Eucalypts will play a part in that. A reminder that we now meet on the second Thursday of the month. Any queries contact Ros – rosa@sttoms.org

CLAY



CLAY Youth Group will be starting up for Term 2 on **April 28th, 7.30pm, at St Tom's**. The last date for Term 2 will be June 16th.
Save the Date for Youth Camp 2023! June 29th - July 2nd

ROS INDUCTION TO ST EDWARDS

We were delighted to pass the motion for a cooperative arrangement for shared ministry with St Edwards Blackburn South. Ros will be taking up her position with them (and continuing with us!) in May. An induction service to welcome her there will take place Thursday the 4th May, 7pm, at St Ed's.



Residents of Fountain Court. A service with Holy Communion occurs monthly 3rd Thursday at 11:30 am. You're welcome to join.
Next service will be: 11:30 am Thursday 20 April in the Library

FINANCES



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

If you consider St Tom's your church then please prayerfully consider giving financially to its ministry. The running of St Tom's relies upon the generosity of its members. Below you can see the amounts which are required on a monthly basis for running our church. Most people find giving either by Direct Debit, or online, the most convenient way and setting their giving to reoccur monthly or weekly.

There are many ways to give financially, such as:



Direct Debit
(see account details below)



Online with a Credit / Debit Card - go to sttoms.org/give or via tithe.ly scan



Cash or Cheque, into the offering taken up during our services

St Tom's encourage giving electronically:

	Account Name	BSB	Account No.	Monthly Required
General Account	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1039 7091	\$ 38,200
Building Fund	St Thomas ADF Building Fund	703-122	0500 5091	\$ 3,800
Necessitous Circumstances (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1054 9390	
St Tom's Hope (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Toms Hope LTD	633-000	159591023	\$ 1,000

CONTACT DETAILS

	Coordinator	Email	Mobile
Small Groups	Denise Clarke	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
Meals	Lyndie Gebert	meals@sttoms.org	0417 304 894
Handy Help	Peter Crandle	handyhelp@sttoms.org	
Pastoral Care	Annette Ward	pastoralcare@sttoms.org	0411 624 573
Prayer Circle (prayer requests)	Yvonne Edwards	prayer@sttoms.org	0432 477 766
Women's Mentoring	Position vacant		

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Catherine Hallyburton and Ming Lau are our Child Safety Officers. Contact details back page.

FAMILY SAFETY CHAMPION

Lyndie Gebert	gebertll@gmail.com	0417 304 894
Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438

WARDENS

Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438
Ruth Kernebone	ruthk@ozemail.com.au	0408 345 136
Steve Tong	tongsyc@gmail.com	0459 453 847

ST TOM'S HOPE

Josephine Armstrong	English Class Coordinator	josephinea@sttomshope.org	0488 022 103
Melinda van der Westhuizen	Kids Hope Coordinator	mva66253@gmail.com	0403 182 654
Paula Adams- Grant	Coach Coordinator Hope Filled Bags	paulaa@sttomshope.org	0438 899 630



STAFF & MINISTRY TEAM

John Carrick	Lead Minister	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
ON LSL FROM 16 JAN	WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN		
Ros Armstrong	Assistant Minister	rosa@sttoms.org	0438 706 815
	WORK DAYS: MON, (ALTERNATE TUE & THU) SUN		
Joshua Millard	Youth Minister	joshuam@sttoms.org	0450 638 890
	WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SUN		
Rachel Gijbers Hayman	Children & Families Coordinator	rachelgh@sttoms.org	0413 158 010
	WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, SUN		
Joey Chan	Assistant Chinese Minister	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
	WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN		
Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator	<u>karenm@sttoms.org</u>	0417 765 210
	WORK DAYS: MON, TUE		
Tracy Chen	Pastoral Care Intern	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
	WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU		
Denise Clarke	Small Groups Ministry	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
	WORK DAYS: NO PARTICULAR DAY		
Catherine Hallyburton	Admin Assistant / Child Safe Officer	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261 <small>SMS</small>
ON LEAVE IN MARCH	IN THE OFFICE MON & THU 9:30 AM - 3:30 AM, & WED (WFH) 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM		
Ming Lau	Chinese Admin / Child Safe Officer	ch.admin@sttoms.org	0402 581 838
	MON, THU (THU - IN THE OFFICE 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM)		