

Diakonia Prayer Letter March 2022

We enter the season of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday on the 2nd March. Lent takes us on a journey towards Holy Week and Easter. It is a time of preparation and traditionally a time of fasting and restraint.

Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, is the day that traditionally is the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before starting to fast for Lent. Making pancakes is the perfect way of using up these ingredients. While many of us may not be fasting, we still enjoy making pancakes, especially for a good cause. I will be working with others from our church to cook and sell pancakes at our local café. It's a way of interacting with the local community as well as raising money for Uniting Care, the service agency which provides low-cost housing, mental health facilities, disability support and family support.

For many people, fasting during Lent was something they had to do. This was the season of the year when there were no fresh crops and the stored goods from last year were dwindling. Hunger and starvation were real. Yet it was also a season of hope and promise. New seeds were being planted in spring, with the hope that they would grow and produce plenty of food in the future. May we too be living in hope that as God provides the seeds, we may notice and care for them so that growth and abundance might come for all.

We pray:

Servant God, we offer ourselves in serving you,
To be a people marked by faith, hope and love.
We offer ourselves in serving one another,
To seek what is good for each person.
We offer ourselves in serving your world,
Knowing that we will meet you walking your streets.
As we foster life giving community
And caring for the whole creation,
May we speak up and take action to support the disadvantaged
And rejoice in the seeds of life that we see growing up around us.
In Jesus name, Amen

*Rev (Deacon) Christa Megaw
Executive Team, Diakonia Asia Pacific*