

Dates to Remember ...	
21 st Dec	8.15pm 'Carols on the Lawn'
25 th Dec	9.30am Christmas Day Service



Church Office Hours: 9am -12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).
The office will be closed over Christmas from 25th December until 13th January.

'Prayer Chain' – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.

Tuesday 'Prayer For the Nation'-11am–12noon in Church Prayer Room. For more info contact Janet Burgess.

Wednesday 'Mens Breakfast'- Meets at 6:45am - 7:50am in the Church House lounge. **Last meeting for 2019 will be on 18th Dec and will restart in Feb 2020.** For more info contact Paul Cosson.

Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'- Meets at 7:00am – 8:30am in the Church House lounge. **Last meeting for 2019 will be on 19th Dec.** For more info contact Gretchen Norman or Amanda Lewis.

Friday 'Revival Prayer'– every Friday evening 6:30pm-7:30pm at Joy McHardy's home.

Giving/Tithing

If you wish to tithe or make a donation to Mangapapa Church, our account number is: Mangapapa Church, 03-0638-0381084-00. Please make sure you say 'tithe' or 'donation' in the reference. If you would prefer to give using our 'Envelope' system, then see Jenny Phin who will set you up with envelopes allocated to you.



Youth Group has finished for the year.

See YG Facebook page for more details.



	Today	Next Sunday 22 nd December
Greeters	J Phin, L McAra	A Clement, H Hockey
Explorers Crèche	N Hawkins	A Lawton
Matrix	School Holidays	School Holidays
Ministry Team	E Oates	J McHardy
Cups of Tea	A & D McLean, P Oram	S & M Patrick, N Aston
Flowers	A Lewis	E Oates
AV & Sound	R Nelson / P Cosson	J Russell / P Walker
Counters	N Coffey	A McLean



Sunday 15th December 2019

10am: 'Experiencing God's Favour'

Luke 1:26-38

Leading: Janice Langford Preaching: Paula Levy

Duty Elder: Paula Levy

6.30pm Evening Fellowship

Church Leader: Paula Levy **Office** 06 867-9604 **Cell** 021 140-4667
E-mail paula@mup.org.nz

Church Office 06 867-9604 **9am – 12noon**
E-mail office@mup.org.nz **Website:** www.mup.org.nz
 Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

Elders Team

Andrew Russell: 027 815-1635 Rodney Judd 06 863-2400 Llew Paul: 022 052 8297

'Explorers' creche is operating and available for 1-4 years.
 'Kidzspace' Primary age children go out at message time.
 'Matrix' Intermediates are to go out during message time.

Paula writes...

Today we are thinking a little about Mary. Quite incredible, that although she is such a key character, we know so little about her. When we read the story – the obvious question is, 'Why did she have God's favour?' Our guess is it was her heart for God, her humility, her trust and her willingness to obey a pretty unique and challenging call.

Finding favour with God is not something we can make happen. What we can do is develop a soft heart toward God and others, and be developing character, humility, kindness. Being faithful in the small things – and who knows when God may surprise us?

Finding favour might sound like an amazing thing, but it wasn't easy. It meant being called to take on a very specific role in His plan – a key and difficult one. When God wants to use someone for His purposes, it will often seem impossible. But God's power will be with us to make the impossible possible.

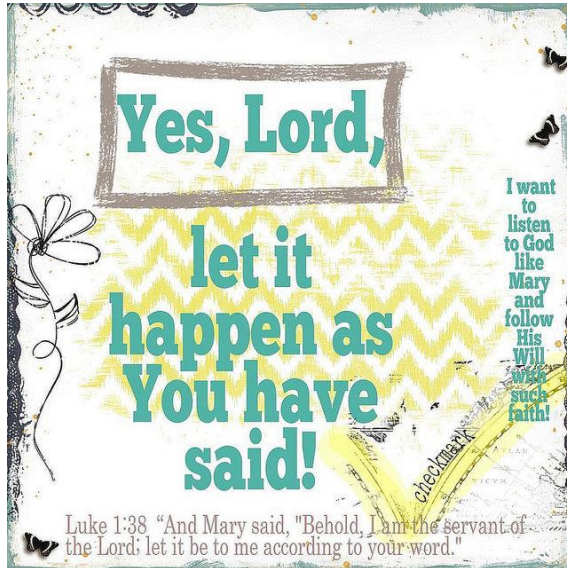
God's favour is powerful but it is also challenging and demanding. Mary's response was initially hesitant, but then a committed YES. "Let it be as you have said". When God finds favour with us, it's because He wants to use us for His purposes. That almost always comes with pretty significant demands on our time, our money, our entire lifestyle. But Mary's response is fitting, "I am the Lord's servant."

I wonder whether God has, or is, speaking to you about a specific role or calling he has? And if so, are you running like Jonah, giving excuses like Moses, or are you ready to say YES like Mary despite the cost? Challenging!

Thanks to so many who have agreed to help for our 'Carols on the Lawn' next Saturday. Please see Nicola if you would like a role and haven't already joined a team. We would love others of you to just come and bring friends. Please be praying that this would be a real blessing to all who come, to our neighbourhood, and that the Jesus story would be shared with gentleness and clarity.

And may you, in the busyness and lead-up to Christmas, be bearers of peace and blessing to those stressed and struggling.

Blessings, Paula



Foodbank – Thank you for your faithful giving. We currently need: tuna/salmon, weetbix, long life milk, pasta sauce, tins of fruit, tins of peas or corn, spreads ... jams, peanut butter, marmite.



'Carols on the Lawn' – 8.15pm Saturday 21st December

Commencing with strawberries and ice cream! Don't forget to invite your family and friends. Prizes for kids. Candles available or bring your own.



Christmas Day Service – Starting at 9.30am.

This will be a shortened service lasting approximately 45 mins to 1 hour.

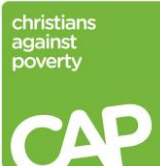
Summer Sunday Social Events – Over

summer we are planning to have some casual social activities on Sunday afternoons, for anyone who wants to join in. Things like bush walks, snorkelling, surfing, picnicking, cricket, volleyball ... etc. If you have any ideas, or are willing to co-ordinate an afternoon, please let Paula or Nicola know.



CAP Money Coach Training - April 2020

Do you have a heart for helping people learn? Are you an excellent communicator? Do you have time to serve the Gisborne community by facilitating a couple of CAP money courses each year? Please see Nicola Hawkins for more information.



The Mangapapa Gisborne CAP Debt Help Centre will be closed from December 16th until February 2020. Essential client work will continue and clients will be supported by their CAP Support Friends. Christmas can be difficult time for people living in poverty, so please pray they experience God's peace, love and joy. Nicola.