

BULLETIN

From David:

“All religions will pass but this will remain: simply sitting in a chair and looking into the distance”.

On my computer desk at home I have one of those old fashioned ‘accessories’ that you flick over when you feel like it to reveal a fresh quotation to ponder upon – a forerunner of the meme and doesn’t spread anywhere near as quickly!

I flicked it over on Monday. It revealed a quote by Russian writer and pre-revolutionary Philosopher Vasily Vasilievich Rozanov (1856 – 1919): *All religions will pass but this will remain: simply sitting in a chair and looking into the distance.*

Only time will tell if the first part of his projection comes true. I suspect not, given that all the religions I have encountered have at their heart a capacity for simply sitting and looking into the distance. That’s what contemplation is.

However, I’ve been spending quite a bit of time just lately (as I suspect others have) *simply sitting in a chair and looking into the distance*. Distance in this sense is not geographical but looking ahead in time. Looking beyond the present moment. Making sense of current circumstances and envisioning what life might be like sometime in the future.

Easter usually does that to me but because it tends to be a busy period as well, there tends to be less time to ponder and consider things of faith.

This year is different. So very different that I found myself simply sitting in a chair and using the ‘space’ to think more deeply about the week ‘after’ Easter; imagining what it must have been like for his close followers in those first few hours and days after his arrest and execution.

So much theological and spiritual thought goes into Holy Week – the week before the crucifixion – daily reflections and meditations etc and in some traditions ‘daily’ worship services. But the week ‘after’ seems to just disappear. The preaching calendar gallops past this period and takes us quickly through the start of Acts and prepares us for the season of Pentecost.

But as I look into the distance, the post-Easter week is just as valuable for faith formation as Holy Week. There are so many big themes to consider: Doubt; Grief; Disappointment; Guilt; Hope. So, instead of a Holy post-Easter week, I’m going to develop a Holy post-Easter month where we will take a journey of faith through these 5 themes. Beginning this week with *Doubt*.

Meanwhile, enjoy *simply sitting in a chair and looking into the distance*.

Shalom

David

Sunday 19th April 2020

This week we will spend some time thinking about the disciple Thomas. He has picked up the title of 'Doubting Thomas' but he was so much more than that. Most people have their doubts, so Thomas is not unique in that regard. But what makes Thomas different is that at a critical moment in the life of the disciple community he is open about his doubts. And, to their credit, the writers of the Gospel, don't skip over it.

Once again, I will send out an invitation to join the online meeting on Sunday morning around 10 am, at which time the 'meeting' will be open.

We will commence our gathering time at 10.30 am.

Best wishes

David

BIBLE STUDY: *The Book of Revelation* – study series starting Wednesday 22nd April @ 6pm

Having spent 6 weeks examining some of the parables and the importance of context, we now move to our next 'requested' topic – the Book of Revelation.

The plan is to have a good look at the structure and purpose of this book over a period of 6 weeks. It is a strange book, so if you are interested in joining in the discussion let me know - I will send you the Zoom invitation.

David

Bits and Pieces:

- Those of you who normally attend the 'physical' church in Chapel street will be pleased to know that work is underway on the tower.
- The newest edition of *Crosslight* is now available online at <https://victas.uca.org.au>
- **Church Council** will meet via Zoom this week. If you have questions/queries for the agenda please respond to this email
- **JustAct** is the social justice unit at the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Their purpose is to equip church members and non-church members with information to take action on issues that matter most to them. Visit justact.org.au or email jim@victas.uca.org.au

If you are in need of pastoral care please contact David Pargeter 0412 334 334

If you haven't already, please visit our website: www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au

For those who are able to continue to financially support the church during this time that would be very much appreciated. The best way is through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465. The only identification needed is 'offering'. By mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to desleighk@ozemail.com.au

(photos, articles, poems – anything you would like to share with others)

