

BULLETIN**From David: Mother's Day**

History recognises Anna Jarvis as the 'mother of Mother's Day'. Motivated by a great love and respect for her own mother, she wanted to create a day to honour what Ann Jarvis and other mothers had done during the American Civil War – worked for peace. Anna lobbied extensively to have the day recognised and in 1914 the bill was passed to recognise 10 May across the country.

Anna wasn't the first person to have the idea of recognising the peace-making efforts of women. "Julia Ward Howe, who wrote 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic' promoted a Mothers' Peace Day in 1872. For Howe and other antiwar activists, including Anna Jarvis's mother, Mother's Day was a way of promoting global unity after the horrors of the American Civil War and Europe's Franco-Prussian War. Howe called upon women to **"gather once a year in parlours, churches or social halls, to listen to sermons, present essays, sing hymns or pray if they wished - all in the name of promoting peace"**. (National Geographic article 2017)

But Anna's 'fight' was not over. She spent the rest of her life fighting to protect the day from commercialism. She took to the streets and to the courts to try to defend what she regarded as the sanctity of the day; that it was supposed to be a simple day to think about our mothers and the impact that war has upon the children to whom they give birth. And, to inspire others to work for peace.

Sadly, she lost that fight. Mother's Day became a retailer's dream and an exercise in sentimentality. She wrote in 1920: **"To have Mother's Day the burdensome, wasteful, expensive gift day that Christmas and other special days have become, is not our pleasure. If the American people are not willing to protect Mother's Day from the hordes of money schemers that would overwhelm it with their schemes, then we shall cease having a Mother's Day—and we know how."**

Anna never made any money from the day, despite plenty of opportunity to do so. In fact, she went broke using her money to battle the holiday's commercialization. She died penniless aged 84 after living the last four years of her life in the Marshall Square Sanitarium.

SUNDAY 10 MAY - Cyber Church at 10.30

This Sunday, our encounter with the Post-Easter experience of the disciples comes to a fitting conclusion. We have looked on **Doubt, Grief and Transformation** – and now we turn our attention towards **Hope**. **This Sunday is also Mother's Day so both themes will come into play for our online gathering.**

In my conversation with others helping to prepare for this Sunday, we thought it would be good to involve you in as sensitive and thoughtful way as possible during the prayers of the people segment. We recognize that **Mother's Day** means different things to different people and evokes the full spectrum of feelings and experiences. We want to affirm that displaying the qualities of nurturing and protective love is not a gender specific activity nor is it confined to biological mothers. **Many people think and talk about G-d as having all the characteristics of the feminine as well as the masculine; a G-d who gives birth to creation, cares for it and sustains it.** These are all 'human' characteristics that have shaped how we think about the divine mystery – but what else do we have other than our limited language to express the inexpressible.

So as preparation for Sunday morning we are inviting you to celebrate Mother's Day by bringing into the service something that for you symbolizes giving birth or nurturing, caring or sustaining 'life', or anything that symbolizes the idea of being hopeful.

See you on Sunday

Best wishes

David

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - The Book of Revelation: session 4

In this the 4th session we will take a closer look at how this book has been interpreted and used for the past few hundred years. Sometimes, how it has been interpreted, is scarier than the original content. If you wish to be added to the list of participants, let me know and I will make sure you receive an invitation to join the Zoom session. Email goes out around 5.45pm for a 6pm start.

David

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

Please visit our website: www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au It is updated on a regular basis by Petra.

Mary (treasurer) would like to say 'thank you' to everybody who has kept up their commitment to financially support the church during this difficult time – it is very much appreciated. If you would like to make a contribution, 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)

From the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly website::

Muslims across the world have entered Ramadan, a month dedicated to fasting, prayer and acts of charity.

Just as Christians experienced over Easter, Ramadan this year will be very different for Muslim communities, as the COVID-19 crisis keeps everyone physically apart.

No prayer gatherings at the mosque, no Iftar meals celebrated in the community, no large family celebrations for Eid – the festival that marks the end of Ramadan.

Normally during Ramadan in Australia, different parts of the Uniting Church host or take part in Iftar meals with Muslim friends and partners across the country as a way of celebrating our shared humanity and friendship.

This year was to be the seventh annual Building Harmony Iftar Meal jointly hosted by the Uniting Church Assembly, NSW/ACT Synod, Uniting (NSW/ACT) and our Muslim partners, the Affinity Intercultural Foundation.

This year, the Building Harmony Iftar will go virtual on Wednesday 13 May from 4.50pm, and everyone is invited to join. Details over page.

In an open invitation letter signed by the leaders of all the host organisations, community members are encouraged at this time of separation to hold one another in prayer and spirit.

“In these difficult and challenging times, the values of hope, compassion and love which are common to us all are ever more important,” the letter reads.

“With the realisation that our wellbeing and survival depends on one another, we have come to know how deeply interconnected we all are.”

“Although we cannot be together in person, it is more important than ever that we hold one another in prayer and in the spirit of friendship.”

Additionally, the letter encourages people to find creative ways to share a message of friendship during Ramadan, such as a poster hung on their doors or on social media.

Right now, sending a message of peace and harmony into the world is an important gift we can all give.

Other possible interfaith connections you can make during Ramadan include:

- **Ramadan Conversations:** one-hour conversation shared live on YouTube on the current COVID-19 crisis and past Ramadan experiences, 7-8pm each night in Ramadan. Different guests will feature each night talking to former ABC Religion host John Cleary. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AffinityDialogue>
- **Recipes for Ramadan:** explore different tastes, cultures, stories and recipes throughout Ramadan shared on the website : <https://www.recipesforramadan.com/>
You might even like to try some of the recipes at home for the 13th of May

- **Be Inspired:** you might like to watch again or share one of the videos from UnitingWorld's LentEvent about our church partner, the Protestant Church in Maluku, and their inspiring peacebuilding work with the Muslim community in Ambon, Indonesia. <https://fundraise.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/be-inspired>

Register for the Building Harmony Virtual Iftar

Wednesday 13 May 2020, 4.50-5.40pm

RSVP using this link <https://forms.gle/Gs3ktq2sHt7uJUF86>

The Iftar will be live-streamed on the UCA Assembly Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitingChurchAu>



THE UNITING CHURCH SYNOD OF VIC/TAS; JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION *JUSTACT* Newsletter for May is now available. If you wish to go on the mailing list please visit: <https://justact.org.au/newsletter/> Some topics for consideration this month include:

- Supporting people on temporary visas subjected to family violence.
- No greater love – lives on the line to protect people and the planet.
- Fair lending in the time of crisis.
- No profits in harming the Earth and all that live there – addressing climate change.

These articles all come with suggestions on what we can do to address these issues – includes letter writing suggestions to politicians.