

BULLETIN

From David: Are we being given a message?

22 April was international Mother Earth Day. And as I sit here looking out onto a huge banksia tree alive with squawking parrots, agitated noisy miner birds and a few interfering magpies, I'm reminded that Mother Earth has many ways of communicating with us.

In the past week I have read stories in the news about the impact the 'global lockdown' is having on the environment and it's all positive: heavily polluted air is now almost 'alpine' in quality: the smog which normally hangs over congested cities has gone: at-risk species are recovering because their habitat is devoid of human activity: and water-ways are running clear - no longer choking with thoughtless waste. Wildlife has returned to city streets; coyotes, pumas and wild goats cautiously walk past shops displaying bemusement at the strange change in circumstances.

I have little doubt that this sudden experience of a radical reduction in all that pollutes and disturbs our planet will be just a short-lived period of reprieve. **Nonetheless, Mother Earth's message is clear: when we change the way that we live and reduce our impact on the place we call home, she speaks to us of healing. She still has within herself the capacity for resurrection and renewal. But the science tells us that we are at the tipping point and possibly past the point of no-return. But in the past few days we have caught a glimpse of what might be possible. There is hope and it is in our hands. We can only dare to believe that this COVID-19 experience might convince politicians around the world that we can change course. That the inevitable is not necessarily inevitable.**

In a clear, powerful and gentle voice Mother Earth is saying to us – if you stop hurting and abusing me, I can and will heal myself.

The question is, will we listen, and will we stop.

Shalom

David

Sunday 26 April – Post-Easter Grieving

Hi folks,

This Sunday, as I indicated last week, I have chosen to explore the theme of post-Easter grief. It is an important dimension to the post-Easter story and experience of the disciples. Like us they were very human, and it's a pity really that the Gospel texts don't devote more attention to what must have been an absolutely devastating experience. But perhaps the writers, like so many people, wanted to move through the moment as quickly as they could and come out the other side pumped and raring to go forward. I'm pretty sure we all know that it doesn't really work like that. Each encounter with death and grief has to be embraced, navigated and integrated, and each journey takes as long as it needs and doesn't always end.

So, this Sunday we will spend some time encountering the experience of grief through the experience of the disciples.

Why am I telling you this before-hand? Because I know that for some of us the experience of grieving is still very fresh and still being integrated into ongoing lives, and I want to encourage you to join in rather than think about giving the service a miss because it's still a bit raw.

In so many ways this service is for you – indeed it's for all of us.

- **It is likely to be yet one more little step along the way toward healing. And because grief touches us all very personally and deeply, I would like you to bring to our time of gathering an object that is in your home that you have held onto as a reminder of the one you still love but who is not here anymore in the ways that they used to be.**

It is in this sense that we can become a community of love that understands what grieving is like and support one-another as we make our ways through the experience.

Shalom

David

Wednesday Bible Study - The Book of Revelation: session 2

Having spent session 1 in some kind of 'background briefing' and appreciating the importance of Ephesus and the imposition of the emperor's Imperial Cult (the worship of the emperor and his predecessors) we will now turn our attention to the structure of Apocalyptic writing in general and the Book of Revelation specifically. **We will have a quick look at the role of archetype in apocalyptic literature in preparation for session 3 when Robert will lead us into a deeper exploration of archetype and other insights.**

If you are not involved already and would like to receive an invitation link just let me know and I will add you to the list.

Keep well

David

Bits and Pieces:

- The newest edition of *Crosslight* is now available online at <https://victas.uca.org.au>
- **Church Council** met via Zoom last Wednesday. Minutes are always available on request.

One of the things decided upon at the meeting is that when we are finally allowed to gather again we need to **celebrate with a meal together!** 😊

The **'Drop-In'** is managing to provide take away meals to at least 40 - 50 participants per day. Also staff keep in contact with participants by phone and by a weekly newsletter.

- **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



Work continues: Repointing of chimney at the rear of the church

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)