

BULLETIN

WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

From David: This, too, shall pass.

A few weeks ago I shared with you this quote by a Russian philosopher: one thing will always remain; simply sitting in a chair and looking into distance.

Since then I've found myself quite a few times doing just that. I'm usually on my own sitting on a bench looking out over Port Philip Bay. I try to fit in at least one decent walk a day and at the end of it grab a coffee and sit for a while. If it's cold I rug up in a hoodie and a beanie. But most times it's been pleasantly mild, making lock-down just that much more bearable. One day this week all the benches were occupied with couples chatting so I sat on the grass and leaned against a post.

As I looked into the distance, I found myself thinking about all the lives that have been turned upside down and outside in, because of a virus.

Of all the things that are often touted as threats to our way of life or our lives, I don't think anyone quite anticipated how a microscopic virus would impact upon the world so quickly and so dramatically – especially the depth or breadth of the economic impact and social disruption.

But I think most, if not all of us, know deep within ourselves that “this, too, shall pass”.

The nature of impermanence is such that bad times as well as good times never last forever. So even while the world is becoming restless and hungering for this particular time to end, let's not lose sight of some of the good things in life that we might have rediscovered in recent weeks. For example, the one-way system inside my supermarket sometimes results in having to wait patiently while another customer ponders over which jar of minced garlic to buy. This morning after a long wait at the fresh food stall an elderly woman stepped back so that I could grab a cauliflower. I said thank you. She said thank you for thanking me. I resisted the temptation to say thank you for thanking me for thanking you – we might have been there all day. But you get the point.

I know this is a really difficult time for lots of people, but a change has occurred – a kind of niceness has returned to community life. No doubt ‘this, too, shall pass’ I just hope not too quickly.

Thank you

David

Sunday 24th May: 10.30am cyber-church.

Bible Reading: Act2: 12 - 47

This Sunday we continue our short journey into the **Book of Acts**. It's a journey that will trace the migration of the teachings of Jesus from Jerusalem to Rome, and some of the people who arrived on the scene during that time. Over coming weeks we will pause for a while at different stages in the journey as rising tensions give birth to compelling options for those who wish to remain faithful to Jesus's vision for a better way of living.

See you Sunday.

David

Wednesday Night Study.

This coming **Wednesday May 27th from 6 – 7pm**, will be the final session on our short but hopefully meaningful exploration of the **Book of Revelation**. Our next series will go for 4 sessions and commence on **Wednesday 3rd June**. In this series we will take a closer look at many of the names and titles given to Jesus. It should be an interesting and illuminating short series.

The *PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA (PCNV)* meeting will be an online *TODAY* Sunday May 24 from 4:00pm - 5:15pm.

Speaker: author, scientist and theologian, *DR VAL WEBB*. Topic: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: The Making of a Radical Theologian. Val's book, by the same title, is widely regarded as the definitive biography of this remarkable and complex nineteenth century ground -breaking woman. This past Tuesday, May 12, was the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. 2020 is also WHO's International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, in acknowledgment of Florence's contribution to humanity. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82084317994?pwd=WlVrNFhxc1g2V2liVzNNNDlWWUxxdz09> Meeting ID: 820 8431 7994 Password: 293015



This Wednesday 27th May marks the start of National Reconciliation Week — In This Together

In 2020 **Reconciliation Australia** marks twenty years of shaping Australia's journey towards a more just, equitable and reconciled nation. Much has happened since the early days of the people's movement for reconciliation, including greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to land and sea; understanding of the impact of government policies and frontier conflicts; and an embracing of stories of Indigenous success and contribution.

2020 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the reconciliation walks of 2000, when people came together to walk on bridges and roads across the nation and show their support for a more reconciled Australia.

?????? **ISOLATION TRIVIA** - a fun night on Zoom hosted by Brian and Janet ??????
FRIDAY 29 MAY 7.30 - 9:00 PM

Step 1: Get a team together

Your 'team' can be 1 - 8 people

People in the same house can be on different teams (as long as you log in on different computers/tablets/phones)

We suggest you team up with at least one other household from church

Feel free to invite other people to join the fun

We can use Zoom to put you in breakout rooms so you can collaborate as a team on your answers

We do all that at the touch of a button - so no need for any extra Zoom knowledge

Step 2: Let us know you are going to join us - RSVP by 25 May

Let us know your team name and who will be in your team

Where we are sending the zoom link: email or mobile number

We can always put you with a group if you are unsure, just let us know

There will be a wide variety of questions - something for everyone (including those under 40!!)

To join all you need are:

A Zoom connection (same as church)

A pen and paper (each team will record and mark their own answers - NO CHEATING!!)

A burning desire to have a great night 😊

See you there!!

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- The **Church Council** met this week via ZOOM. With the Victorian Government announcing that places of worship could reopen under very strict conditions, it was decided to take the advice of Synod and delay reopening until a later date. Synod has also issued a checklist that will assist us in all aspects of reopening when that day finally arrives.
- **Paulo Reid** who has been Program Manager for the Engagement Hub will be retiring on Wednesday 17th June after several years at the helm. We have really appreciated her contribution and wish her well.

From the Uniting Church Assembly. Join us in prayer for:

- Australia's First Peoples and members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in the hope that we continue to seek to reconcile the wrongs of the past.
- Christians in Australia and around the world. May we show each other and be blessed with unusual kindness in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- Volunteers across our Church, agencies and schools, who we honour in National Volunteer Week
- Our Muslim brothers and sisters, whose month of fasting comes to an end this weekend.

**From Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia (JCMA)
Celebrating Eid Ul-Fitr – Today Sunday 24th May**

“With the holy month of Ramadan coming to an end this weekend, we would like to wish our Muslim members and communities Eid Mubarak. May the day be filled with joy and blessings. In a statement issued by the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) the day of celebrating Eid Ul-Fitr was determined to be Sunday 24 May. Under the current circumstances of COVID-19 lockdown, Eid prayers can be performed within homes in congregation with a minimum of three people together with the option of Khutbah”. The statement from the Australian National Imams Council can be viewed here: <https://www.anic.org.au/>

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact David Pargeter 0412 334 334 or email saints163@bigpond.com

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

If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of the church, 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)**

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung – the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. We pay our respects to their Elders - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.