

**BULLETIN*****WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN*****From David: Magic Moment**

Something quite unusual is happening in our backyard. Actually, it's a side-yard. It's a fairly large timber deck with lots of pot plants and things around the edges. Short pots. Tall pots. Red ones. Grey ones. There's also a 1metre high fence along the long edge of the deck, and behind this fence a row of James Stirling trees. In the one at each end of this row of there is a possum nest. That in itself is quite unusual. But that's not the unusual thing I want to tell you about.

Since the start of lock-down we have had 2 very interesting visitors. They were not part of our 'garden' experience prior to COVID-19; they were always around the area but never on our deck. We could hear them calling from big trees in the neighbourhood but we rarely saw them close up.

I'm talking about 2 really large ravens.

Even if I'm sitting outside they will swoop down and land on the fence. One arriving shortly after the other. They sit for a short while surveying the space. Then they hop down and walk about the deck – not like they own it, but like it's part of their territory and I'm in it. They walk from pot to pot. Looking up and inspecting the under-side of leaves and branches for insects or berries. Sometimes they just stand there turning their heads from side to side as if they are listening for something. They are so confident and if I stay very still they come quite close. Every now and then they will walk to the glass sliding-door and look inside the house. Curious but not intrusive. At times it feels like we are together in this space and caught up in some kind of spell, with neither of us wanting to do anything suddenly in case the spell gets broken.

Then without warning, and by some form of communication that does not include me, they both take to the skies. The spell is broken but the magic remains – for a little while at least.

So, I take a sip of my coffee savouring the moment and letting the magic fade as gently and as quietly as it appeared.

Shalom

David

***Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May: 10.30am - cyber-church.***

**Bible Reading: Acts 5: 12 – 40**

Hi folks, the 'waiting room' will be open from around 9.45am for a 10.30 start. In preparation for this Sunday, please have in front of you **5 small candles** if you can. We will be using them during our time together online. Don't forget some **matches** too.

See you on Sunday.

David

### ***Discussion and study group***

We concluded our quick look at the Book of Revelation last Wednesday. I really enjoyed the time we spent learning about this strange but interesting book.

**Next Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we will start a 4 session study / discussion about the names and titles that were 'attached' to Jesus in the Gospels and letters of the Christian testament.**

Should be an interesting series – well, at least I will try my best to make it interesting.

**If you have not been involved previously and would like to be, just let me know and I will add you to the email list of people to be invited.**

See you on Wednesday

Regards

David

### **May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> National Reconciliation Week — In This Together**

**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.**

Dr Val Webb gave an enthralling Zoom presentation to the **"virtual" Progressive Christian Network Victoria** meeting last Sunday afternoon based on her book **"Florence Nightingale: The Making of a Radical Theologian"**. Val wrote this book after she started collecting material in preparation for a work on notable female theologians & realised that Florence Nightingale deserved a book entirely devoted to her. **The resulting biography is now recognised internationally as the definitive record of Nightingale's life & work.** Like all of Val's writing, it is meticulously researched and, most importantly, eminently readable. Several people on Sunday asked where they could buy a copy of the book. Unfortunately, it is difficult to come by in Australia as the publisher, "Chalice" no longer has an Australian distributor. Very kindly, Val has arranged to import a quantity & is making them available at a cost of \$55 including postage to an Australian address.

If you would like to buy a copy of this fascinating book, please contact Val direct on [valmaurice@aol.com](mailto:valmaurice@aol.com).

## **St Kilda Historical Society - Short story competition - win \$1,000**

During the Covid-19 lockdown, people have been discovering new creative talents. Entries are coming in! A bleak wintery day indoors might be an excellent time to try your hand at writing fiction.

There are open and junior categories. Entrants may write on any theme, in any genre and in any time period, providing that the story is inspired by or set in St Kilda. It is not necessary to be a resident of St Kilda to enter. First prize in the open section is \$1000. The judge is local writer, Lee Kofman. **Closing date is 7 August 2020.** [Click here](#) for full information.

## ***MINDFULNESS BASED STILLNESS MEDITATION.***

**Online via ZOOM Monday to Friday 11am.**

**Teacher John Tansey, registered member of Meditation Association of Australia.**

**FLYER ATTACHED**

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact David Pargeter 0412 334 334 or email [saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)

Please visit our website: [www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au](http://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](mailto: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.*

## THE CARDBOARD CONGREGATION

Robert Hoskin

What do you think, in this corona threat?  
Cardboard cut-outs are placed on the seat  
An instant crowd, for a football elite,  
We see our face in this special meet  
To cheer on the players as they engage in their feats.

Could we see our Churches, in the people race?  
Where Cardboard parishioners are given a place  
An engaging crowd, thus saving time  
To solve the problem of number decline  
And cheer on our preachers caught up in this bind!

And is there a way to make up for the rules  
Affecting patrons at swimming pools  
It is a wonderful way to keep us safe  
As we throw in the cut-out, held by a string  
It means we are safe as we do our thing

And what of the parliament; sisters and bros?  
Cardboard members seated in rows  
We watch from afar as they make their laws  
Knowing its one way to cope with the flaws  
Constantly made behind the closed doors.

So, is this the answer to the corona scare?  
Cardboard cut-outs without a care  
For the forests cut down to feed this need  
For paper products and all that feeds  
That soul-less march to satisfy our greed.

\*The latest idea is that cupboard cut-outs of fans are placed on seats in the stands.