

**BULLETIN****Welcome to this week's Bulletin.****From David: Keeping things in perspective**

**I can think of quite a few situations which have caught me by surprise and touched me very deeply. I'd like to share just two such moments with you because they relate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August.**

On the **2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1975 our first child was born.** It was in the days when fathers weren't allowed in the delivery room and had to wait outside. I remember the nurse striding through the double doors, but not much of what she said to me. She took my arm and hustled me into the recovery ward where I was handed a baby wrapped in a white blanket. Julia was being looked after and there I stood like a shag on a rock awkwardly holding my son. I had never held a baby before. A different nurse came over to me and helped me adjust my arms so that I could cradle him and look at his face. I have never forgotten that moment. Even now, though he is a strapping 45 year old lawyer, when I look at him I can still see the face of the child on the day of his birth.

**4 days later I was watching a news item about the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. It's a moment in history that has embedded itself in my memory and it's a moment that I hope we never forget.**

20 years later in 1995, one of the survivors published a book. Until that time many survivors had been too ashamed to talk about the experience. Feeling guilty for having lived through such an experience when so many of their family and friends did not. **The picture over the page is a rather tragic artefact from that moment, and here's the story behind it. It's a bit harrowing, but that's the point.**

**The book *Shin's Tricycle* describes what happened to a 3 year old boy named Shinichi Tetsutani.** It's narrated by Shin's father, Nobuo Tetsunani, who describes the morning shortly before the attack as a calm and sunny day. "The air was filled with the sandpapery sounds of cicadas rubbing their legs together in the nearby trees." Shin and his best friend, a girl named Kimi, were outside the family's home, playing with his favourite toy – a tricycle with red handlebars.

**At 8:15 a.m., the bomb detonated. And everything changed.**

The blast collapsed the house, creating an "explosion so terrible, a flash so blindingly bright. I thought the world had ended. Then, just as quickly, everything went black."

Shin was missing in the chaos immediately following the attack. His family frantically searched for him among the wreckage of his destroyed home. They found Shin pinned under a house beam, badly hurt. "His face was bleeding and swollen." "He was too weak to talk but his hand still held the red handlebar grip from his tricycle. Kimi was gone, lost somewhere under the house."



The family joined other neighbourhood survivors along a nearby riverbank. "It was a horrible sight," the book said. "Everyone was burned, and they were crying, moaning and screaming for water."

"'Water, I want water,' pleaded Shin in a faint voice. I wanted to help him so much," his father said in the book. "All around, people were dying when they drank water. So I didn't dare give him any."

Shin did not survive the night.

**After his son died, Shin's father couldn't bear to leave the boy's body in a lonely graveyard. So the family buried Shin in their backyard, along with his friend Kimi and his beloved tricycle.**

In 1985, 40 years later, Shin's father decided to move his son's remains to the family gravesite. He and Kimi's mother helped unearth the backyard grave. There, according to the book, they saw "the little white bones of Kimi and Shin, hand in hand as we had placed them." Shin's father had all but forgotten about the tricycle. But there it was.

Lifting it out of the grave, he said: "This should never happen to children. The world should be a peaceful place where children can play and laugh."

The next day Shin's father donated the trike to the museum.

There, the legacy of a 3-year-old boy continues to remind future generations of the horrors of nuclear destruction.

**Even though we are going through what feels like a very bleak time, nothing compares to this moment at 8.15 am on Monday 6 th August 1945. A moment I hope we never forget.**

Peace

David

**CYBER – CHURCH**

Sunday 9th August at 10.30 am

Bible Reading: John 14: 22 - 31

This Sunday David Pargeter will lead our church gathering and you are most welcome to join in.

The zoom waiting room will be open around 9.45 for some chat time, and we will 'gather' more formally at 10.30.

If you have not joined us before and would like to - please send David your email address so that an invitation can be sent to your inbox. [Saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:Saints163@bigpond.com)

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Wednesday, 12 August 6 – 7pm

This Wednesday we will begin to explore a new topic - I thought some people might be interested in this topic: *who were the Samaritans?*

Participants in the study group will be receiving a list of suggestions for future study and an invitation to nominate preferences or add suggestions. David

If you would like to be involved, just send David your email address [saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com) and he will send you an invitation.

*The next PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK OF VICTORIA* meeting will be on Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm via Zoom.

Topic: "Enchantment, Disenchantment, Re-enchantment. Directions toward the future of Christian faith" with Rev Dr Christopher Page.

The PCNV has a new website which can be accessed at: <http://www.pcnvictoria.org.au/>

The Newsletter has been recommenced and this latest edition is worth a read.

### Vale Janet De Longville

Janet was member of our congregation for many years - as an active participant at the Drop In as well as being part of our worshipping community. She was a very creative person who could paint, write and knit to a high standard - many people have scarves she had knitted for them.

Over 5 years ago Janet moved from her flat in Herbert Street into care at Estia Health on Dandenong Road as she needed extra help due to her dialysis treatment and the impact it had on her daily life.

Janet decided to cease her dialysis treatment in April this year - she'd had enough. She died on Tuesday 5th May at Estia Health having been compassionately cared for by the nearby palliative care nurses from Cabrini. She didn't want a funeral so she was cremated and her ashes are held in the Wall of Reflection at Springvale Crematorium.

We were lucky to have known Janet and to share some of life with her over the years.  
May she rest in peace.

Thanks to Lyn (and Desleigh) for this tribute



The Presbytery of Port Phillip East latest *Newsbeat* is accessible at <http://www.ucappeg.org> There are interesting articles to read relating to our Presbytery, including new COVID – 19 instructions via Synod. The *Frequently Asked Questions* features new advice on face masks used in work situations.

### Remembering the Atomic Bombs: History, Memory and Politics in Australia, Japan and the Pacific

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945. In this webinar, three speakers will consider new findings about the Japanese experience and memory of the Atomic bombings, how Australia and Australians have been caught up in this atomic history, and the social and political legacies of the bomb in the Asia-Pacific region.

**WHEN:** August 11, 2020 at 5pm - 6:30pm

**WHERE:** Zoom webinar

**Register:** [HERE](#)

The Church Council would like to thank those who have continued to support our church financially over the last few months while we have been in lockdown – it is very much appreciated. Contributions to support the work of the church 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)

As we gather in our various places via Zoom, we acknowledge the *Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung People* as the traditional custodians of this land on which our church building stands. We give thanks for their commitment to nurturing this land over many generations. We honour the sacred stories that belong to this land. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and for those emerging who will lead their communities into the future. We commit ourselves to empowering children to continue the journey of reconciliation on this land.