

BULLETIN

Welcome to this week's Bulletin

From David: The capacity to endure.

Wednesday was RU ok? day.

I rang a friend on Wednesday and asked him that question. Not in any general sense, or because it was 'that' Wednesday, but because I knew that he and his wife were facing a very difficult few days. An old tumour on her spinal column that had been excised 15 years ago had unexpectedly returned. They were in the middle of having to navigate the hospital system during this very challenging pandemic. Her COVID test showed negative and now she is ready for admission next Tuesday for MRI's and then surgery on Wednesday.

A 12 hour microscopic operation lies ahead followed by days and weeks of uncertainty regarding whether any damage to her 'system' has been averted, is temporary or becomes permanent. She, they, are very pragmatic about it all and display what is one of the most endearing and admirable qualities of being human – the capacity to endure.

In that specific context, 'RU ok' seems a bit fatuous. But such a question is never wasted on any day of the year because we are so good at saying 'I'm ok' even when we are not. The thing is, it really is ok to say: 'I'm not ok'.

A pandemic has a way of washing over and obscuring what it is like for so many individuals who are already wrestling with a raft of personal challenges; stress in their relationships, domestic violence, difficult adolescents, physical constraints, anxiety and depression, etc. etc. etc. Many of these pre-existing circumstances are only being exacerbated rather than exposed by what we are all having to endure at the moment. All of us in Victoria that is. But we are seeing signs of breakthrough as the number of cases is falling and the number of people dying, declining – thankfully.

There is light at the end of this very long tunnel – as the saying goes: This, too shall pass.

And if we are not feeling ok – well, it's ok to endure and it's also ok to tell someone else if we are struggling. We don't have to 'endure' everything on our own.

Shalom

David



CYBER CHURCH by ZOOM Sunday 13 September 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Readngs: Psalm 88 1 – 7, Luke 8: 1 - 3

This Sunday a number of guests from South Port UCA will join us on-line while their Supply Minister Belinda Clear takes some leave. A big welcome to everyone this morning.

As they say, ‘the more the merrier’.

On Sunday we will continue to explore the relationship between Film, Faith, Creation and Enlightenment. Mary will introduce us to a film that influenced both her profession and her faith. I will talk about Psalm 88 and Luke 8: 1 - 3

An invitation will arrive in your inbox around 9.45 am for anyone who feels like a chat – the ‘waiting room’ will be open from that time.

If you have not joined before please send David your email so that an invitation can be sent to your inbox: saints163@bigpond.com

BIBLE STUDY / discussion group This coming Wednesday 16th September we begin a new series.

We are going to spend a few weeks looking at some of the shorter letters in the Christian bible some of which are also the oldest: James 50 CE, 1 and 2 Thessalonians 52 – 53 CE, Galatians 55 CE, Philemon 62 CE, Titus 65 CE, 2 Peter 68 CE.

Remembering of course, that these letters were not written to us. We are reading correspondence between 2 people or 1 person and a community. We are as it were, reading over their shoulders – so why do they have value or relevance for our faith journey? David

Interested? Then join us on-line at the new time of 7.30 – 8.30 pm on Wednesday.

If you are not already on the list and would like to join, just send David your email address and he will add you to the distribution list: saints163@bigpond.com.

THE GAS FALLACY

Why we need a renewable led recovery for our climate, health and economy

Community Webinar

Tuesday 15 September
7:00 - 8:30pm

Expert Panel | Q&A | Action Session

Professor Penny Sackett
Dr George Crisp
Mark Ogge
Esther Abram



more information at www.pecan.org.au

SYNOD TASKFORCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

The JIM Cluster is seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to be part of a Taskforce on Climate Change Action. The purpose of the Taskforce is to identify, encourage and support implementation of measures across the Synod, including congregations, to reduce the Synod's greenhouse gas emissions.

To lodge an expression of interest, please e-mail, phone or text Mark Zirnsak, Senior Social Justice Advocate on 0409 166 915 or mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au Please lodge your expression of interest by **Friday 28 September**.



ACT for PEACE RATION CHALLENGE Join the challenge:

Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 September 2020

Visit the **Act for Peace RATION CHALLENGE 2020** website for more information on the Ration Challenge and to sign up. www.ncca.org.au

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA

Next meeting via ZOOM is on Sunday 27th September at 3pm to 4.15 (NOTE time for this meeting)
SPEAKER: Rev Glynn Cardy: **TOPIC:** Blessed be the Undone: theo-poetics and the magic of the ordinary.

Join PCNV ZOOM MEETING by clicking on the link below just before 3:00pm

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89881887828?PWD=V2HYWKQ1SjF2QXVOOVbXSWNNUZHZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89881887828?pwd=V2HYWKQ1SjF2QXVOOVbXSWNNUZHZZ09)

Meeting ID: 898 8188 7828
Passcode: 021679

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES <news@wcc-coe.org>

WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

13 - 21 September 2020 Worldwide

During this week which includes the **International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September**, church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of support in favour of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

An online morning prayer hosted by the WCC on 14 September will be specially focused on the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, observed this year from 13-21 September.

WELLSPRING CENTRE: 10 Y St, Ashburton VIC 3147: www.wellspringcentre.org.au

A Prayer, a Plea, a Bird – prayer writing, imagination and faith

Facilitator: Julie Perrin

Tuesday 29 September 2020, 10am to 12noon

Via Zoom

A workshop for people who'd like to write the prayers on their hearts. Julie learnt the art of writing the short and ancient prayer form, the 'collect' in a workshop at Whitley with Pdraig O'Tuama. Since then she has been writing these brief prayers and exploring ways of naming the presence of God. If you would like to join her, there will be time in the workshop to practice writing short prayers and the possibility (but not necessity) to share your writing.

Cost: \$45 (full cost) / \$40 (concession/WellSpring members)

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK: PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

This week is Child Protection Week (6-12 September).

St Kilda Uniting has committed to implementing the **Keeping Children Safe** policy of the **Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Vic & Tas**. This commitment ensures the creation and maintenance of a child safe culture. This includes engaging in the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations applied in a Uniting Church context. The UCA has created a poster as an "accessible presentation of what we have to do to live up to the promise of being a safe church for all people". **Poster attached**

ABORIGINAL CULTURE, VALUES AND BELIEF WORKSHOP – Online 3hrs interactive

Auspire – Australia Day Council WA presents an Aboriginal Culture and Awareness workshop. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness is about having some knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal People's histories, Values, Belief Systems, Experiences and Lifestyles. This workshop also explores the impacts of colonisation and how these still play out today with our First Nations' Peoples and mainstream Australia. The session is facilitated by Mr Danny Ford, a Noongar man and senior traditional custodian of Whadjuk Country, with connections to the wider Noongar Country and Aboriginal communities across Western Australia.

When: 15 September 2020

Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm AWST

Cost: \$59.11 – \$72.83

Register: [here](#)

BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE, AUSTRALIA'S PAST AND FUTURE

Pax Christi will be holding a World Peace Day conversation event on Monday 21 September at 7.30 pm via Zoom. The chosen theme for the evening *Between War and Peace: Australia's Past and Future*. The two guest speakers are the distinguished scholar Prof Allan Patience and national President, Medical Association for Prevention of War Dr Sue Wareham. They will offer thought provoking ideas on new directions for the future. This will be a highly interactive evening.

When: 21st September

Time: 7:30pm - 9:15pm

Register: Send your name and e-mail address to j.camilleri@latrobe.edu.au

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL at Holy Trinity Church. **Thursday 3 December to Sunday 6 December.** (set up tree on Wednesday December 2nd) All health restrictions will be adhered to - which might mean no concert or Carols amongst the Trees. Please contact Maureen if you would like to assist

Email: maureenawalker5@bigpond.com

NCCA CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE

The first Climate and Environmental Justice Roundtable gathering was held in July. The conversations were energising and many connections were made, however more time is needed for the dialogue to go deeper and for us to discern what areas and actions we might wish to take collectively. The format will be Roundtable will again on QiQo Chat online platform.

When: Wednesday 16th September

Time: 10:00am to 12:30pm

Register: [here](#)

From The Prayer Tree by Michael Leunig

God help us to live slowly;

To move simply:

To look softly

To allow emptiness:

To let the heart create for us.

Amen

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our church financially. Contributions to support the work of the church can be made through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465 - the only identification needed is 'offering' – or 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)

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.