

## BULLETIN

### Welcome to this week's Bulletin

#### **From David: Gulls, chips and a ship**

With the slight easing in restrictions across Melbourne, I took advantage of a 2 hr. excursion that included a walk, a sit-down and some food. As I often do, I took the coastal path around Half-Moon Bay. I made my way to where the old ship HMVS Cerberus has been submerged since 1924. There's a small coffee shop there which also sells takeaway fish and chips.

**You probably know this already, but the Cerberus is the last of its type in the world. It's also the only substantially intact warship of Australia's pre-Federation colonial navies. This shipwreck rests in shallow waters at Black Rock where she acts as a breakwater.**

Her primary role was to protect the nation's gold, by patrolling the waters in and around Melbourne, protecting it and its rich gold resources from attack. Not sure by whom, but I suspect pirates or something similar. The Victorian gold rush was happening at the same time as significant instability in Europe. Britain and Russia were rattling swords at each other and the colonies faced the possibility of hostilities with the Russian Navy. The British fleet was on the other side of the world.

**The ship itself is also rather unique in that it includes the first major weapon transition from fixed gun mounts to revolving gun mounts. Designed by Captain Cowper Phipps Coles in 1854.**

Back to the 'excursion'. I often sit on the blue stone wall near the boat ramp and jetty a few metres from the wreck, and just observe all that's going on around me. It's a peaceful place most of the time. People venturing into the bay for a swim. Young and old sailing their OK dinghies. Black and pied cormorants drying their wings; perching like statues on the heavily rusted Coles gun turret. There are always a few pacific gulls roosting with their heads facing into the wind. And who can ignore the Silver Gulls.

So, on Monday, I headed out to Cerberus. This time I decided to also treat myself to a piece of Blue Grenadier and a minimum of chips, take them to the wall and eat them while enjoying some sunshine. What an experience that turned out to be!

Not only was it a 'first' for me in such a long time, but it seems like it was a 'first' for all the gulls. They literally followed me to the wall which was about 100 m away. I don't know whether they could smell the fish and chips, or they just recognised the white paper bag in which they were wrapped. It was like a scene out of that

Hitchcock movie. I wasn't anxious. I was thrilled about having some company for lunch. Well, I sat below the wall with my back leaning against a rock. Sun on my face. Mask hanging off one ear. Gulls standing behind me. Gulls standing on the wall above me. Gulls hovering overhead. All of them as keen as I was to eat my first fried chip in months. There was one of me and fifty of them. It was time for some almighty squabbling. They didn't let me down.

**The photographs below capture something of the scene that I was experiencing.**

Quite often I would toss a chip either behind me or in front of me. There were too many chips even for me, and I was happy to celebrate this moment with them. I got the sense that they too were missing the presence of people – who am I kidding, it's the chips they missed.

Hierarchy kicked in. Older males arched their necks and with open beaks squawked and charged at the younger birds, trying to drive away the competition. But while they were busy noisily asserting themselves and defending their turf, other quieter ones stood silently nearby and got most of the chips. It's not the noisy bird that gets the chip.

**Funny the lessons you can learn from nature! David**



**CYBER CHURCH by ZOOM Sunday 20th September 2020 at 10.30am**

**Bible Readings: Proverbs 14: 1 – 12, John 14: 1 - 7**

**This Sunday** we explore the concept of *The Way*, examining what is probably the most misused and misunderstood phrases in the bible. As always, I hope you will find our time together meaningful and enriching. See you on Sunday.

**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](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)**

**BIBLE STUDY / Discussion Group this coming Wednesday 23rd September: 7.30 – 8.30 pm.**

Last week we had what I thought was a very interesting encounter with the Book of Jacob (James). This week we will look at another 'letter' in the Christian bible – Galatians.

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](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com).**

***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](mailto:mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au) Please lodge your expression of interest by Friday 28 September.**



***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=V2HYWKQ1SjF2QXV0OVBSWNNUEZHZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89881887828?pwd=V2HYWKQ1SjF2QXV0OVBSWNNUEZHZZ09)**

Meeting ID: 898 8188 7828  
Passcode: 021679

**WELLSPRING CENTRE** : 10 Y St, Ashburton VIC 3147: [www.wellspringcentre.org.au](http://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)

### ***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](mailto:j.camilleri@latrobe.edu.au)

**Uniting Church in Australia President Dr Deidre Palmer** has urged the Federal Government ahead of its Budget announcement to take into account the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that are placing women at a disadvantage. The Uniting Church Assembly calls for:  
Investment in the care economy - stimulus funding in areas where women are more frequently employed, including health care, child care, aged care, disability services, education

**Investment in Child Care and Early Childhood Education** as industries which employ women and also provide care for children, thus enabling women's participation in the workforce

**Investment in Family Payments**, particularly payments for Single Parent Families which are predominantly women-headed families, as well as supporting housing and economic security and better social and health outcomes for women and children in low-income households

**Investment in Domestic and Family Violence Support programs**, reflecting the deeply concerning trend toward increasing instances of violence against women during the pandemic

**Increased financial support to unpaid carers at home**, including additional top-up payments to those receiving Carers Payments.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY of PEACE Monday September 21<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**A Prayer for Peace in the World**

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle;  
the strength to be forgiving;  
the patience to be understanding;  
and the endurance to accept the consequences  
of holding to what we believe to be right.  
May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil  
and the power of love to overcome hatred.  
We pray for the vision to see and the faith  
to believe in a world emancipated from violence,  
a new world where fear shall no longer lead people to commit injustice,  
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.  
Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration  
and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we were all created.

— Unknown

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](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.