

BULLETIN

Welcome to this week's Bulletin

From David: It's the simple things:

Friday morning, I sat for what felt like ages just staring at the computer screen. I had opened a new document in Word and started typing – Bulletin article, 27 September 2020. But that's as far as I got. I had hit the infamous writer's block. Nothing more emerged.

After a while, I put my elbows on the desk, rested my face upon my knuckles and shut my eyes. My writing mentor years ago had said to me, "when you hit the wall take some time to look at the bricks". That's what I did and so began a conversation with myself; one of those that takes place inside your head:

I don't know what to write about today.

Why is that?

I don't know.

Yes, you do.

Are you sure?

Then I realised what the problem was. Like everybody else, I am just so over lockdown. I've been trying to rise above it since March but I can honestly say that I am over the 4 walls of my study. I'm lucky I've been able to go on nice walks, indulge my love of trying to paint, to read, to study and to writing. All the things that nourish an introvert.

But I also love the company of other people. I love meaningful and meaningless conversations. The amusement that can emerge out of a conversation that changes direction and bumps into something really funny. The unplanned and the unexpected.

Like everybody else, I want this experience to come to an end. I want the coronavirus to just go away and leave us alone. I want to see my children and give them a big hug. I want to be able to help them to support and encourage their children. I want to give my grandchildren a great big hug and tell them how much they are loved – face to face! I want to sit with some friends and share some wine over a meal. I want to wait for ages at a baggage carousel. I want to set my mask on fire as an act of liberation.

But I suspect everyone is in that kind of place. None of us wanted this experience but it is what it is. We have dug deep and we have endured. I've been waiting each morning to hear news about the number of cases and lives lost. There is joy in the numbers coming down as they represent the

probability of an easing of restrictions. There is sadness in knowing that it's mostly elderly people have died. They may have died of other things in any case but probably not alone and without the love and affection of family and friends. Of course, they may have.

As I sat there with my face resting on my knuckles, I realised that it's the really simple things of life that I am missing deeply. Hopefully, we will all be able to enjoy and appreciate them again very shortly. Meanwhile.....

Shalom

David

CYBER CHURCH by ZOOM Sunday 27th September 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Readings: Matthew 18: 1 14

This Sunday, Melissa will share with us a very thoughtful reflection on her favourite film. See you then.

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 30th September: 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

This Wednesday we will spend some time looking at the shortest and possibly the most explosive letter in the Christian Bible – **Paul's Letter to Philemon**. If we had no other piece of Christian literature available to us, we would probably be able to work out from this letter just what the Gospel of Jesus was all about..

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

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. 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 by this weekend.

You are invited to join, together with our friends at Solar Citizens, GetUp!, Greenpeace and Uniting Church for an online rally to save our brightest clean energy funds.

What: Online rally and petition handover: save our brightest renewables funds

Where: Online on Zoom –

When: Monday 28 September, 12.30 to 1.30pm AEST Contact: action@mail.acf.org.au for link

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA

Next meeting via ZOOM is *TODAY* 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=V2HYWkQ1SjF2QXVOOVBSWnNUZHZZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89881887828?pwd=V2HYWkQ1SjF2QXVOOVBSWnNUZHZZZ09)

Meeting ID: 898 8188 7828
Passcode: 021679

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)

The Church Council will meet this Tuesday. If you would like any issues brought to their attention please email David: saints163@bigpond.com

Recommended; ABC Radio National ***SOUL SEARCH*** hosted by Marilyn Lake, explores contemporary religion and spirituality from the inside out — what we believe, how we express it, and the difference it makes in our lives. **Airs Sunday 6pm Repeated: Wednesday 11pm, Thursday 12pm.**

This last week The Bigger Picture: Indigenous theologian Garry Deverell on *grounded spirituality*. What are the possibilities for a *grounded* spirituality in the aftermath of colonisation? Indigenous theologian Garry Deverell has lived the search for a spirituality that connects land and body. He joins Meredith Lake in part three of our series The Bigger Picture, to discuss ritual, reconnection and reconciliation.

Tonight and repeated in the week will be **Professor Elaine Pagels** on secret gospels, grief and why religion? Professor Pagels has spent decades seeking to understand religion, and as her latest book reveals, this isn't a merely academic exercise, but a quest bound up with her own experience of life, and bereavement.

Following on from the film *The Way* last Sunday, this contribution is from Brian, written while on the Camino de Santiago – the Way of St James - last year with Janet.

In the beginning

Do we find the end?

Where do we see the origin of what we want to be?

What have we left behind?

What will we continue to carry with us on the journey?

Our feet may be worn, our muscles feel weary,

We yearn for simple comforts and wonder where we will lie down to rest.

Why start the journey when you know the pain to come?

Why stay with that which is safe when you know the potential within?

The people we meet give us great hope and sometimes despair.

Help us to find those that inspire and the capacity to motivate others.

Help us to focus on understanding our motivations and their effect on others.

In the end

Do we find the beginning?

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.