

BULLETIN**Daylight Saving Time! Welcome to the Bulletin**

From Robert Hoskin:

I find the song *Somebody over the Rainbow*, sung by Judy Garland, strangely relevant to my journey with the Corona - 19 virus. It was part of a classic film: *The Wizard of Oz*.

I had seen the film many years ago but was disappointed when we came to the Wizard in the Emerald city. He is revealed as a sham, manipulating his hearers. I had imagined a far more glorious figure befitting the name Wizard of Oz. Now, years later, I see the point. We live in a world of sham and deception, very aware of the misuse of technology to control people's lives. Indeed, this has become a key issue in the use of Facebook, Tiktok and other social media.

Baum wrote the story in 1900 at a time when the USA was emerging as the great powerhouse of the Western World. For example, I have a bit of memorabilia which alerted me to the visit of the Great White Fleet in 1908, a way in which the US were showing off their technological power to the world. I also find it interesting that the film was produced in 1939, at the very time the Western world was at the brink of war and about to engage in years of conflict. This power would be used to win victory, but one wonders at what cost?

As much as I might parade the film, I am uneasy about author Frank Baum. He might be applauded for making his hero a young girl, perhaps representing his support for the emergent feminist politics of his time. I do not applaud what he wrote concerning Indigenous peoples. He argued that the safety of the frontier would not be established until there was "total annihilation" of the remaining Native Americans, who, he claimed, lived as "miserable wretches". I am also naturally uneasy about Baum's reference to the witches, so totally inappropriate in today's terminology.

That aside, he wrote an imaginative story that maybe is still pertinent today.

As I will share in worship, I find symbols of tornado, journey and return to home, very meaningful at a time when we face the fall-out from the Corona – 19 virus. It is now six months since I began my 'Corona diary' in which I tried to keep a poetic and artistic record of this terrible period, which seems to be spinning out of control in places like USA. Now nine months or so after the first case was reported in the United States, the death toll there is over 200,000 cases. At the helm is a President who continues to underplay the gravity of the situation with a series of untruths. He is the personification of the wizard!

So, I turn to this film to underwrite my new series of images, which hopefully, I will share in time to come.

Robert

CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM Sunday 4th October 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Readings: Mark 9: 33 – 37; Isaiah 11: 1 - 2

This Sunday, Robert Hoskin will lead our ZOOM gathering.

We will also celebrate our connectedness in faith, by sharing together bread and wine. Please bring a piece of bread and a ‘cup’ of wine/fluid to the online gathering.

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 via ZOOM this coming Wednesday 7th October: 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

After last week’s interesting look at Philemon and slavery, we turn our attention this week to **Paul’s letter to the Colossians.**

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

CHURCH COUNCIL met via ZOOM last Tuesday. One of the items considered and discussed was: where to next - what does it mean to be a virtual church etc?

David will arrange to host some small group discussions for the congregation via zoom meetings. It was considered an exciting way to move through this break from being together in the physical church. Also that we ask the leadership group of the Zimbabweans if they are prepared to do a similar exercise.

ATTACHMENT: For all who practice meditation, the Missionary Sisters of Service and Fr. John Wallis would love you to join them this Sunday 4th October 2020 - *Inundating the world with the energies of love*

SOUL SEARCH Tonight with Dr Meredith Lake: ABC Radio National at 6pm and repeated in the week will be:

WHAT MONKS KNEW ABOUT THE EMOTIONS OF ISOLATION

Have you ever considered that emotions have a history — even an emotion like loneliness, which so many of us have been feeling lately? On **Soul Search** today, Meredith Lake dives into the history of emotions with Dr Dawn LaValle Norman and Dr Jonathan Zecher from the Australian Catholic University.



PAX CHRISTI VICTORIA
International Christian Peace Movement



Invites you and friends
to an online Zoom Forum

Palestine: A Turning Point?

Sunday 18 October 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

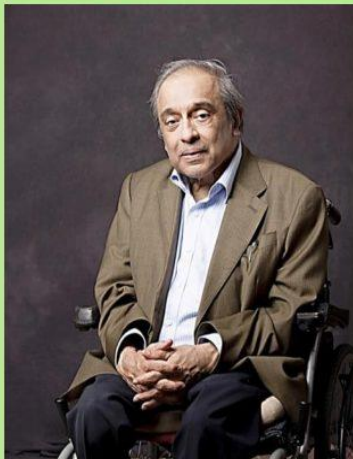
Palestine is one of the pivotal conflicts of our time. Since 1948 the Palestinian people have experienced dispossession and violation of their most basic rights, not unlike Australia's First Nations.

Until the injustice is remedied, there is little prospect of peace in the Middle East. Is a Just Peace possible? How can we in the West, in Australia play a constructive role?

Dr Chandra Muzaffar

one of Asia's leading public intellectuals

will address these questions and engage us in conversation



Dr Chandra Muzaffar is the President of the *International Movement for a Just World (JUST)*, an international NGO based in Malaysia, which seeks to critique global injustice and develop an alternative vision of a just and compassionate civilisation guided by universal spiritual and moral values.

He has written extensively on civilisational dialogue, international politics, religion, human rights and Malaysian society. He has authored and edited 32 books in English and Malay, with several translated into other languages. One of his latest publications is *A World in Crisis: Is There a Cure?*

Chandra was Professor and Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (1997-1999) and Professor of Global Studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia (2007-2012)

To register: email camrita44@gmail.com or phone +61 (0)448701877 giving the names of those wishing to participate and their emails. You will then be provided with instructions on how to join and participate in the Zoom Forum (by phone if preferred).



This month of October, Act for Peace (National Council of Churches Australia), is supporting education in Pakistan, particularly the education of young girls. Your support of Act for Peace's local partner, Community World Service Asia's (CWSA) education program in rural Pakistan, will make a real and lasting difference in the education of a generation of children.

It has been the custom in many parts of rural Pakistan for girls to marry early or stay home to help with household chores, which

then places no value or worth on education. As well as this cultural barrier, rural communities can lack qualified teachers and education resources which restrict the quality of education in the classroom. Your gifts make a difference!

www.actforpeace.org.au

The Presbytery of Port Phillip East - October edition of **NEWSBEAT** magazine is available for downloading on <https://www.ucappep.org/newsbeat/>

Preparing for Advent & Christmas The season of Advent begins on Sunday November 29 this year.

How will we help people enter this season, given that much of what we do this year will need to be either online or in outdoor spaces? We're providing two online meetings to share ideas, on **Tuesday October 6**, 10-11 am, and **Thursday October 8**, 7.30 - 8.30 pm. We're using the usual Zoom Café space, accessible at <https://bit.ly/ppepsupport>.

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.