

BULLETIN

Welcome to the Bulletin

From David: To ‘The New Colossus’:

My very first international flight was as a ‘10 pound pom’ emigrating to Australia in 1972. It was a convoluted journey with many landings and take-offs. As you can probably imagine there was heaps of excitement looking out the cabin window at the cities below as we circled for landing. So many memorable moments. **One was of the flight path that took us over the slums of Bombay (now Mumbai).** I had seen poor areas in England, but they bore no resemblance whatsoever to the vast sprawling tracts of land surrounding the airfield. Land which at first looked like a huge rubbish tip but as we descended revealed a swathe of corrugated iron walls and tarpaulin roofs .

Another memorable moment was at the other end of the spectrum. We were landing at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York. I had been reading about the famous Statue of Liberty in the flight magazine. The only thing showing on the screen in those days was the flight path; but at least they showed live footage and not just a simulation of the path.

As the plane prepared to land at 6 in the morning, it approached Manhattan from the North then banked to the left giving those of us on the left-hand side of the cabin an amazing view of this very symbolic statue (photo over).

There are many myths about the original design of the statue and what it represents, but she is in essence ‘the mother of exiles’ – the unwanted and rejected ones. The words on the casting inside the monument are very clear. A powerful reminder of what is at stake in the United States of America and the election taking place on the 4th November. Not that we can influence the outcome but it’s good to be reminded of a few words that sit like a corner-stone in the character of the nation’s identity; indeed the character of any decent nation. The words were written by Emma Lazarus and installed on the 2nd November 1883:

The New Colossus

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame*



*Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

What powerful words beneath one of the world's most iconic statues. Shalom. David

CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM: Sunday 1st November 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Readings: Isaiah 53: 1 – 3; Psalm 118: 20 – 23; Luke 19: 36 – 40; 1 Peter 2: 4 – 8

This Sunday is Communion Sunday. Please bring some bread and wine to the gathering

This week our guest presenter is **Janet Snashall-Woodhams**. Janet will introduce us to a very well-known piece of public sculpture in the city of Melbourne and share with us how it has informed and continues to influence her faith and spiritual compass. And, how this piece of art has itself influenced the art of others.

I will offer a short reflection on the 'Stone that the builder rejects' and then we will share in communion together.

Looking forward to seeing you online at 10.30.

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 4th November:7.30 – 8.30 pm.

Robert will conclude his 3-part series on *After Life*. The past 2 weeks have been very interesting indeed and part 3 should be just as engaging.

The Zoom waiting room opens around 7.15pm. See you then. David

Interested? Then please join us. 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

Report back from Church Council Thursday 29th October. Church Council members have also been attending ZOOM meetings with Presbytery to keep up-to-date with Covid – 19 regulations and other aspects of church management.

At this stage it seems unlikely that the church will be opened for worship services for some time yet because of the COVID regulations and roof repairs. What we can do though is to have **AFTERNOON TEA** together – so you are invited to gather in the Engagement Hub garden (Chapel Street entrance) on **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15TH BETWEEN 2 AND 4PM**. We are assuming that groups of people meeting outside will be increased on Nov. 9th allowing this to take place. We will also be inviting our Zimbabwean and ‘163 Conversation’ friends.

You will need to bring your own food and drink – there cannot be ANY sharing. You might also like to bring your own chair. We will need to practice physical distancing, adults will need to wear masks. We will have hand sanitizer. This of course will all depend on the **WEATHER!**

From Randall:

* We are expecting work to start soon on the new slate roof for our church. It will be done in sections and there will be an exclusion zone under the section being worked on. More details to follow when available.

* Update on our electronic noticeboard: We are working on getting a building permit, approval from Presbytery and Synod and a commercial builder to supervise the installation.

Uluru Dialogue Seminar Series

In preparation for **NAIDOC Week** 8-15 Nov, the UNSW Indigenous Law Centre and Uluru Dialogue @UluruStatement.org have partnered together to host a Seminar Series. This 3 part series will provide a nuanced and detailed analysis of sequenced reform Voice, Treaty, Truth decided by the 13 dialogues that were held across this great land in the lead up to the 2017 Uluru First Nations Constitutional Convention and the **Statement from the Heart** formed at Uluru.

Seminar 3– TRUTH Thursday 5th November 6 - 7:30pm, register [HERE](#)

Our final seminar will provide insight into what the process of truth-telling meant for the First Nations authority that participated in the dialogues and why it was considered to be important. The seminar will also answer the question as to why truth-telling might be achieved through a Truth Commission.

Speakers: Prof. Stan Grant, Prof. Gabrielle Appleby, Prof. Mark McKenna, Chair Prof. Megan Davis

www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au

The monthly News and Resources from the Justice and International Mission Cluster is available online at:

The Justice Cluster at the Uniting Church jim@victas.uca.org.au

It is packed with excellent information and guidelines for letter writing for particular issues in pursuit of social justice. They are also keen to get feedback from its supporters about what issues would be important to pursue. Also included is a list of resources for congregations on issues of climate justice.

Loving all of us

Blessed are the forgetful:

who didn't remember the muffins
until the acrid smell crept up the corridor;
who didn't remember her name
though you'd known her all your life.

Blessed are the clumsy:

who knocked the edge of the table
decorating the carpet with milk;
whose balance went sideways and so did the cake,
candles burning candles.

Blessed are the foolish:

who tried to say something eminently sensible
and an embarrassing nonsense came forth;
who got the wrong end of the stick and splintered
in their self-esteem.

And blessed are we when forgetful,
clumsy, or foolish;

knowing that we are one of many
- nay of a multitude - who trip their
way through life, embracing the floor as it comes
up to meet us.Glynn Cardy

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)

VISION STATEMENT. As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

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.