



# Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;  
people to people; and people to community.

## Newsletter

Sunday, 19 April 2020

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

### Sunday Worship: 19 April 2020

Resources for this Sunday's worship will be available by Sunday morning on the website

[bathurstunitingchurch.com.au](http://bathurstunitingchurch.com.au)

including a printed liturgy and video to download.

### 'Sunday at 5' on Zoom

For those who like their worship live and informal, our evening 'Sunday at 5' service is still meeting via Zoom at 5.00pm each Sunday evening. If you'd like to join us, please email BUCconnect, and we'll send you an invitation (and help you 'Zoom', if required).

### Staying Connected

Minister of the Word  
Rev Claire Wright

For pastoral matters Sunday to Friday contact 63311306 (Manse) or 0490 678 593 or email [rev.claire.wright@gmail.com](mailto:rev.claire.wright@gmail.com)

### Coronavirus Response Team:

[BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Response Group:

David or Ellie at

[BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com)

### Welfare Response Group:

Julie at [BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com)

19 April 2020

Easter 2A

'Easter is not over! While we celebrated Easter Sunday last week, the fifty-day Easter Season continues until Pentecost Sunday. During this time, the Lectionary invites us to dig deep into the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. This season flows out of Holy Week as a kind of mirror of Lent which lead us into it – Lent being a preparation for the powerful and challenging journey of Holy Week, and Easter being an outworking of the Holy Week experience. This week, the gift of the Lectionary is the gift of *assurance* – a confidence that our faith is not just a fantasy, or a distant dream, but something real and transforming that we can experience and live each day...

'In every life there are daily "little deaths" – job losses, sickness, broken relationships, bereavements. At times, faith in Christ and in the resurrection has been portrayed as an escape from these realities of the human condition, and Christians have tried to pretend that we are immune from life's pain and failures. However, when we do this, we do not help ourselves or our communities – and we do not honour Jesus' death or resurrection. Also, when we make the resurrection simply a historical fact to assent to intellectually, we lose the power it offers for daily living and service... How different our impact on our communities might be if our faith in resurrection was less an idea which we held in our heads, and more a quality that we lived with every part of our lives...'

John van de Laar, [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)

This week, we read together:

Acts 2:14a, 22–32	('This Jesus, God raised up – and all of us are witnesses')
Psalms 16	('With the LORD at my right hand, I shall not be moved.')
1 Peter 1:3–9	('A living hope')
John 20: 19–31	('Jesus came and stood among them.')

## Seeds of Hope

What is the future going to look like, out the other side of COVID-19?

In the BUC Coronavirus Response Team, we think we've seen the glint of a silver lining – or perhaps it's the glint of light from an empty tomb. Here are a few things we've *loved* about this challenging time, that we hope remain in place when the lockdown ends!

- You (Bathurst Uniting family) have been wonderful! Thank you for your flexibility and co-operation; your thoughtfulness, love and care for each other; your initiative and creativity in finding ways to reach out to your neighbours; and your willingness to do new things – and old things in new ways.
- Little things make a *big* difference. Thank you to all who have gone out of their way to keep lawns mowed, grounds tidy, kids active, neighbours supplied, words and tokens of appreciation offered – and offerings/donations faithfully flowing.
- The PALS/KUCA/Youth and Aged Care teams, and Pastoral Partners, have worked tirelessly and well – and been amazing.
- We've developed the tools and capability (and even enthusiasm) to 'stay connected' in new ways. How might we use them to 'connect the disconnected' from now on?
- On-line and recorded services are being not only watched – but *shared*, so that our weekly attendance has actually *grown* (if only virtually)! 81 households tuned in online on Good Friday – plus those who watched via USB or DVD. Thanks to all who have been part of it – and may we continue to invite our friends and neighbours to share the Good News with us like this!

### Prayer Matters

We pray together:

- For all affected by coronavirus, or impacted by fear and social isolation
- For 'front-line' medical staff, teachers and other 'heroes' of the pandemic
- For residents and staff in Aged Care facilities, and their loved ones
- For the homeless, refugees in detention and other vulnerable populations
- For those out of work and facing hardship and uncertainty
- For Year 12 students
- For each other and for your neighbour – whether known to you or unknown

**Remember to email BUCconnect or call Rev. Claire if you'd like to pray with someone.**

### Getting connected

If you'd like to connect with family and neighbours using popular **tech tools** (like Zoom, WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype or conference calls), we can help set you up and show you how. Contact Julie on [BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com) if you are interested.

For those who like using **Facebook**, we will be launching a private Facebook Group, as a virtual 'meeting place' or 'notice board' for BUC members to share stories and news, prayers and prayer requests. Contact Robyn on [BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### Dates for your Diary

All 'in-person' events and groups have been suspended until further notice.

### The Newsletter

The Newsletter will continue to be sent out (and posted on the Website) weekly with updates and resources.

Please contact Ruth at [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) if you wish to be added to the e-mailing list – or to submit prayer requests or good news stories of how you are staying connected and active!

### USS Update

The Management Team of the Uniting Safe Shelter has been meeting regularly to make decisions about how we can help the homeless in Bathurst as we move closer to winter. We will be unable to open in June as planned due to the Covid-19 outbreak. All premises of the Uniting Church have been closed to comply with COVID\_19 regulations and the CSU Paramedic students who we have relied on so heavily in the past, are no longer in Bathurst, as their courses are being delivered online.

However, we are in the process of filling the freezers with purchased meals from local Café's as community cooking days would not comply with current social distancing requirements. Two local businesses, Lifestyle Solutions and Panorama Wholesale Packaging, have been most generous in donating funds and packaging to make this possible.

We have also been able to purchase some good quality sleeping bags which will be available for the homeless. The meals and sleeping bags will be distributed through Bathurst Community Op Shop, who have remained open for people to wash their clothes and have a shower.

### Maintaining our offerings

Even though we won't be physically attending worship, please remember that we rely heavily on your generosity in making regular financial offerings, to enable us to continue to minister to you, and our networks and neighbours - *especially* in a time of widespread distress.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to depositing their offerings by direct debit or internet transfer to the Bathurst City – Giving Direct account

We have become aware that some would prefer not to use the internet, and instead deposit cash directly to the bank account.

This can be done by calling into any branch of the Westpac Bank and depositing to

BSB: 634634

Account No: 100027964

Account Name: Bathurst City – Giving Direct

Internet transfers can also be processed to this account, or alternatively contact [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services