



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

Sunday, 5 April 2020

Sunday Worship: 5 April 2020

Resources for Palm Sunday worship will be available by Sunday morning on the website

bathurstunitingchurch.com.au

Including a printed liturgy and video to download (or deliver in another format if you let us know what you need).

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

Coronavirus Response Team:

BUConnect@gmail.com

Pastoral Response Group:

David or Ellie at

BUConnect@gmail.com

Welfare Response Group:

Julie at BUConnect@gmail.com

Prayer for a Pandemic

By Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose

between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.
Amen.

<https://www.amormeus.org/en/blog/prayer-for-a-pandemic-cameron-bellm/>

This week, we read together:

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Matthew 21:1-11

EASTER WORSHIP 2020

Resources for

Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday morning and

Easter Sunday morning will be available on the website –

bathurstunitingchurch.com.au

Remember, you can also access a range of regular weekly resources in our **Information Pack: Worship**. (To access Information Pack resources, simply go to the Coronavirus page on the website and *scroll down*.)

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Thank you to all who helped assemble and deliver Activity/Care Packs to the families of KUCA and PALS. "Physical distance – social connection – community care" in action.



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 BUCCconnect@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 BUCCconnect@gmail.com if you are interested.

Dates for your Diary

All 'in-person' events and groups have been suspended until further notice. If you'd like help to move your group on-line, please let us know – or talk to one of the groups already using Zoom to great effect (like KUCA and various Lenten Study Groups)!

If your group is meeting by Zoom, please take the opportunity to say 'hi' to any partners, kids and pets who may be at home, before getting down to business. (They may appreciate being included...)

'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).

PRAYER MATTERS

We pray together:

- For all affected by coronavirus, or impacted by fear and social isolation
- For those in authority making difficult decisions
- For churches offering pastoral care, worship and community care in new ways
- For residents and staff in Aged Care facilities, and their loved ones
- For the homeless
- For those working to support us – and those out of work and facing hardship
- 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.

Stories of Hope

- 76 people joined us for Sunday worship on the web last week (*plus* those with our worship DVD or USB) – including 3 from the Solomon Islands, 4 from New Zealand and 1 from Iceland! Welcome to the family.
- Members of our church family have joined hundreds of others in supporting *Spot the Teddy Bathurst*, a community game to bring fun and joy to kids in isolation. Guess whose furry friends these are?



The Newsletter

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

Please contact Ruth at BUCconnect@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!

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 BUCconnect@gmail.com to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services