



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

**Newsletter** Sunday, 3 May 2020

**Physical Distance – Social Connection – Community Care**

## Sunday Worship: 3 May 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.

Virtual morning tea will be at 11am on Zoom

### 'Sunday at 5' on Zoom

Our informal evening 'Sunday @ 5' service meets via Zoom at 5.00pm each Sunday evening. If you'd like to join us, click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/640626609> or enter the Meeting ID 640 626 609 in the Zoom app. All welcome!

## 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:

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

### Pastoral Response Group:

David or Ellie at

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

### Welfare Response Group:

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

## 3 May 2020

## Easter 4A

'When it comes to life, the Bible is clear that we can only be most fully alive when we are deeply and meaningfully connected with others. Although it can sometimes feel like the demands of others, the restriction of our freedom that comes from living with others, and the constant struggle to maintain strong relationships with others are too painful and exhausting for what they cost us, the alternative, which is to isolate ourselves, is far worse.

'That's why, as we explore the meaning of Jesus' resurrection, the Lectionary leads us to consider what it means to follow the Good Shepherd, and to be part of God's "flock" (Psalm 23; John 10:1-10). It is not just that Jesus brings life to us as individuals (John 10:10), but that, through the resurrection, he gives life to our relationships and communities as well. And, when we welcome God's life into our lives, we are also welcoming God's family.'

John Van de Laar, Daily Worship - Sacredise  
(Thought for the Week 03-09 2020)  
<http://www.sacredise.com/>

Blessings to you, scattered-gathered family of God, as you continue to work out in your own lives what it means to 'share God's love by connecting people to God, connecting people to people and connecting people to community' – in a season of widespread and painful disconnection. May we model for the world, as the early church did, what it means to have true 'fellowship' – with 'glad and generous hearts' – because of the Life that is ours in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Claire

This week, we read together:

Acts 2:42-47 ("All who believed were together")

Psalms 23 ("The Lord is my Shepherd")

1 Peter 2:19-25 ('You have returned to the shepherd of your souls')

John 10:1-10 ('I came that they may have life – and have it abundantly')

## Getting Connected – Learning more about technology

A small group gathered on Wednesday afternoon to learn more about using their technology. It was such a nice time of sharing ideas and tricks and playing around that we are going to repeat it this Wednesday (6<sup>th</sup>) at 5.30pm.

If you'd like to join in email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) or ring Julie. This is for beginners and "there are no dumb questions!" If you haven't used Zoom before let us know and we will have a practice before the session.

Virtual morning tea last Sunday. (Looks like fun? Join us this week!)

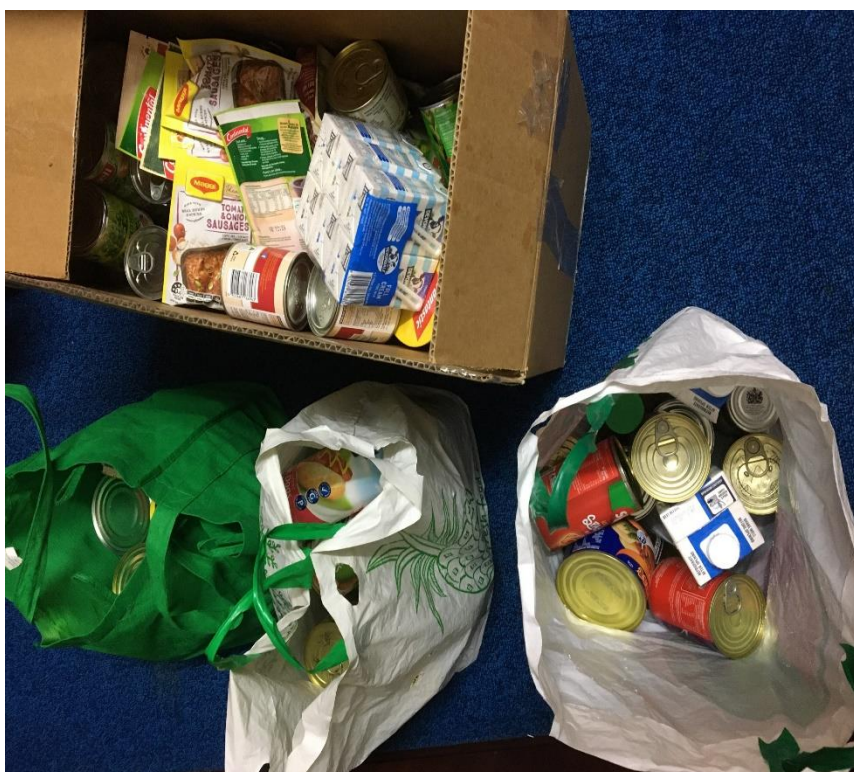


We'll be meeting for Virtual Morning Tea (via Zoom) on **Sunday morning after the service at 11.00am**: everyone welcome to join us! Simply click on this link

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98096879145>

or enter the meeting ID 980-9687-9145 in the Zoom app. You can also join in by phone (if you prefer) by ringing (02) 8015 6011 and entering the Meeting ID: 980 9687 9145.

If you haven't used Zoom before but would like to give it a go, email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) and Julie will help you get started.



A donation of food from the family of Layton Hart, whose funeral Rev. Claire took last week. 'With glad and generous hearts' (Acts 2:46), the family honour Layton's life by giving a helping hand to others in need.

The food will go into the Uniting Safe Shelter store cupboard – but if anyone knows of a family doing it tough, food-wise, please let the Welfare Response Team know!



## Dates for your Diary

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

### Helping the BUC family stay in touch: a new members-only FACEBOOK GROUP

We're setting up a private Facebook Group, as a virtual 'meeting place' or 'notice board' for BUC members to share stories and news, prayers and prayer requests.

Email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) if you are interested.

With Love to the World has been distributed or mailed to everyone this week. If your copy does not arrive within a week, please let Marion know.

Contact Marion at  
[BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com)

### Photos for the Bathurst Uniting Church webpage, social media and newsletter

If you are happy for photos of you to be included on the Bathurst Uniting Church webpage, social media and in the newsletter, please email YES to [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com). Most of the photos have been taken by Sharynne and she will only include ones where you look good!

### 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!



Autumn is starting to break at the Manse. By no means the most spectacular colours in Bathurst – but a rather nice nudge to reflection and prayer. If you're walking for exercise at the moment, why not (a) check out the 'Walk of awareness' devotional in this week's worship resources and (b) send us a photo of the things that make you 'wonder as you wander'.

### Prayer Matters

We pray together:

- For all affected by coronavirus, or impacted by fear and social isolation
- For those awaiting postponed elective surgeries and other medical care
- 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 each other and for your neighbour – whether known to you or unknown
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**Remember to email BUConnect or call Rev. Claire if you'd like to pray with someone.**

### 'With glad and generous hearts' (Acts 2:46)

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.

Money can be deposited 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. Alternatively contact [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services