



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

**Newsletter** Sunday, 14 June 2020

**Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care**

## '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!

## Sunday Worship: 14 June 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.

The sermon will be a sermon which was given by Rev Peter Walker at Synod.

### The Purpose of the Living Church

Reading: Matthew 28: 1-20 The two Mary's go to Jesus' tomb, and find it open with an angel sitting on the stone who instructs them to go and tell the disciples that Jesus is risen. As they head off, they are met by the risen Jesus.

## VIRTUAL MORNING TEA

We meet for Virtual Morning Tea (via Zoom) every **Sunday morning at 11.00am:**

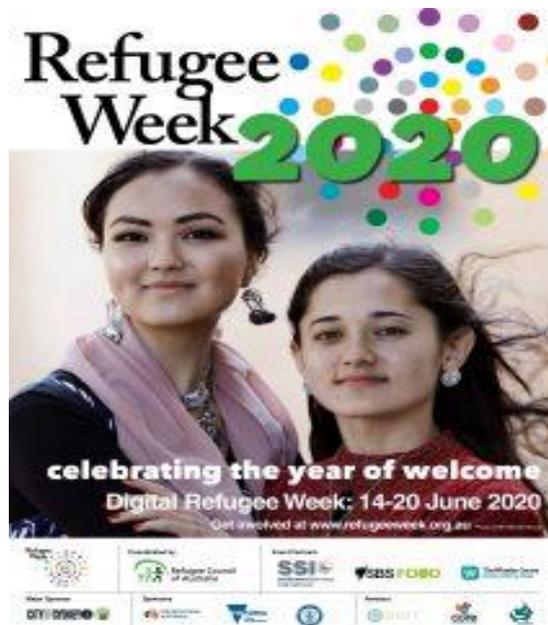
everyone welcome to join us! Simply click on this link:

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

or enter the meeting ID 980-9687-9145 in the app.

## Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) and we'll put you in touch with someone.



## **COVID 19 UPDATE - RETURN TO WORSHIP**

The Corona Virus Response Team has met and carefully considered the Synod guidelines and the NSW Government advice on resuming face-to-face worship. We understand the pressure for things to “get back to normal” and be together again with our church family and have balanced this against the advice from Synod to be cautious and caring for all.

“Even though restrictions are easing, it does not make returning to face to face worship an automatically safe or wise option. A lot of careful planning and thought needs to accompany every group that wishes to meet. Who will record the name and contact details of every person, who steps on to church property – no matter what the reason. For you to meet in person, who will disinfect every surface after it has been touched – doorknobs, light switches, toys, colouring in pencils/crayons, Bibles, hymn books, microphones, lecterns, phones, laptops, seats/pews.... Who will clean the toilets after each use and how will that person be protected from infection? Who will clean/disinfect the kitchen after each use? In many of these cases the usual people would be our members – many of whom are in the high-risk category and require specific COVID-19 risk management plans.

The Government has said a risk management plan for any gathering is essential. Failure to comply brings heavy penalties. The initial fine is \$11,000.00 and/or six months imprisonment, with possible further fines of \$5,500.00 for each day the offence continues. The NSW Police may also issue on-the-spot fines of \$1,000.00 for any infringement. Any fines or legal costs will not be paid by Synod or Presbytery, so we urge you to be thorough.”

(Synod Covid-19 guidelines returning to worship 2 Jun 2020)

### **There are good reasons to not to meet face-to-face at this point**

- A large percentage of the congregation would be in the high risk category and require specific risk management plans
- We can't sing (“Avoid group singing or chanting and wind instruments (such as flute, oboe or clarinet). Solo singers should maintain at least 3 metres physical distance from other people” NSW Covid 19 Safe Plan)
- Many of the elements of worship that benefit from people being together would be restricted. No morning tea, sharing of the plate, offering, no physical newsletter etc.
- We are unlikely to be in the church building as it is too cold and the Activities Hall would have very restricted numbers. (50 visitors for private worship, to a maximum of one person per 4 square metres.)
- Need to clean after each service ie twice on Sunday
- Onerous administrative and physical requirements
- We would have to check everyone's wellness as they came in, sending them away if not well, and potentially damaging the relationship with them.
  
- On the plus side we can continue as we are now
- We have a large set of resources and practice to continue in the current format for another couple of months
- It is caring for those in high risk categories ie those over 70 and those over 50 with co-morbidities.
- NSW Gov is recommending that we have alternative on-line services for people over 70
- [“ Consider offering online services or alternative arrangements for people in high-risk categories (e.g. over 70 years”) Covid-19 safety plan]

**Decision of the Church Council : That Bathurst Uniting Church does not recommence face to face worship at this time.**

## Meet the congregation

Each week we plan to learn more about someone from the congregation.

Send in your answers to these questions and a photo to [BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com) so people can meet you:

1. **When did you move to Bathurst and where else have you lived?**
2. **What do you enjoy about Bathurst?**
3. **What do you enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?**
4. **What is something lots of people know about you?**
5. **What is something not many people know about you?**

### This week we meet Sharynne

1. **When did you move to Bathurst and where else have you lived?**

I was born in Wellington (NSW). Our family moved to Bathurst when I was 2 years old and we lived here until I was 10. I enjoyed going to West Bathurst Public and Margaret Gordon was my scripture teacher. Next, we lived in Gosford and I moved to Sydney for university, where I met David. We spent a number of years in Sydney then lived in Albury for 4 years. In 2003 our family moved to Bathurst so that I could be closer to Mum and Dad who were not well. We have lived here ever since.



2. **What do you enjoy about Bathurst?** I love the blossom trees in spring and the autumn colours. I love walking through the centre of town to enjoy the history, the parks, and all the people who stop and have a chat. I also enjoy working at Charles Sturt University and seeing people (students and colleagues) grow and work “for the public good”.
3. **What do you enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?** I enjoy the people (from the youngest to the oldest), the music (thanks Judy and David – and everyone else who contributes), the KUCA kids and helpers, the history, learning and growing.
4. **What is something lots of people know about you?** I love to travel. Last year I visited China, Taiwan, USA and this year I was supposed to visit USA, Vietnam, the Netherlands, France and UK (Wales, England and Scotland including the Edinburgh Tattoo) but can't due to COVID-19 restrictions.
5. **What is something not many people know about you?** I once won first prize in the Bathurst Show for my cross stitching.

### Did you know that you can read the latest Insights magazine online?

The Winter edition is now out and can be found at [https://issuu.com/insightsmagazine/docs/insights\\_winter\\_2020\\_final\\_web](https://issuu.com/insightsmagazine/docs/insights_winter_2020_final_web).

Have a look at Page 21 which features an article about Bathurst Uniting.

## Dates for your Diary

Please note that – despite the NSW Government’s easing of restrictions – all ‘in-person’ events and groups of our Church *continue to be suspended* until further notice, following guidance from Presbytery and Synod. Our priority is not ‘resuming activity’, but ensuring the safety and well-being of our church family and community.

## 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!

## Prayer Matters

We pray together:

- For people who are treated differently because of their skin colour, religion or culture.
- For wisdom and care in our communities as the country ‘opens up’
- For our Shelter Café, its volunteers and guests
- For each other and for your neighbour – whether known to you or unknown

**Remember to contact your Pastoral Partner or one of the Elders if you’d like to pray with someone – or contact [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com)**

## SHELTER CAFÉ UPDATE

Due to the unexpected advent of Covid19 so much has changed. With limited ways to be able to continue to serve the vulnerable in our community we are pushing ahead with the Shelter Cafe. Currently opening Saturdays and Sundays 12-2pm, with plans underway to extend this further, we are still able to at least provide a hot meal to those who need it most. In addition to this, people are able to access donations of clothing and even a warm sleeping bag if necessary.

Many of our supporters continue to ask us how best to help. Apart from volunteering your time to serve in the Cafe, here are a few suggestions. Please consider putting together a little gift with a letter or note of encouragement. These will be given out to those who come to lunch (or used in other places if we have more than enough).

\* Donations of individually wrapped chocolates or bags of lollies. Sugar cravings are very commonplace among our guests.

\* Hand knitted gloves. These would be a blessing against the bitter winter cold. But please no more knitted socks or beanies. We have an overflow of these.

\* Woolworths Essentials or Groceries Only Gift Cards. You can donate from as little as \$10 and it would enable a guest to buy a toothbrush/toothpaste, hand sanitizer or other things they desperately need.

Please note we recommend only buying Essentials or Groceries Only Gift Cards as they limit the opportunity for the money to be spent on alcohol or tobacco.

Donations can be dropped off at the café during operating hours. At the moment that is Sat/Sun between 12-2pm.

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

Even though we aren’t 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