



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter Sunday, 26 July 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 Morning Worship: 26 July 2020

Resources for this Sunday's worship will be available by Sunday morning on the website bathurstunitingchurch.com.au including a video to download.

Theme: Call and Discipleship

Focus Readings:

Isaiah 49:1-7: Isaiah's second servant song seems to refer to both an individual and to the nation of Israel. Either way the message is clear – the work is hard and leads to mockery and rejection, but God will make God's servant a light to the nations and will ultimately bring the servant praise and recognition.

Psalm 100

John 1:29-42: John the Baptist testifies that Jesus is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit, and two of John's disciples follow Jesus. One of them, Andrew, calls his brother Simon to meet Jesus, and Jesus names him Peter.

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Answering the call to follow the Lamb of God, as Andrew and Peter did, is a daily decision made in the little details of how much we consume, what and how we buy, what we drive, where we live, what we eat, how we use energy, how we work, how we treat others and how we care for ourselves. Many of these decisions result in sacrifices that we would probably prefer to avoid. At its heart discipleship is about recognising that our faith is not an individual journey, but is connected into community. Our choice to sacrifice or not impacts others in our churches, neighbourhoods and world, and so we find that as we follow Christ, we are brought face to face with others, and the impact of our choices and lifestyle on them. To make the sacrificial changes that will lead to a more just world – the world that Jesus proclaimed – we need resources beyond ourselves. For this it takes both the recognition that the Christ we are called to follow is the Lamb of God who calls us to take up our crosses, and an openness to receive the "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" – the transforming, empowering encounter with God – that John said Jesus would offer. But as we embrace the life of sacrifice and of following Christ, we each become foundation stones – Peters, rocks – in the reign of God being built among us.

John Van de Laar

<https://sacredise.com/lectionary-resources/epiphany-2a/>

Staying Connected

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

Gathering in Machattie Park

Everyone is invited to a Gathering in Machattie Park next Saturday 1st August from 1pm - 2pm.

The same protocols (see below) will apply as occurred at the farewell to Rev Claire.

Bring your own food and drink, if required.

At this Gathering we will be asking for a person to be responsible for organising such future monthly Gatherings.

Also please watch the Church Website for any possible changes due to weather conditions.

Reminders to keep us safe during COVID-19 restrictions

- If you are sick, have a sore throat, cough etc., please don't come.
- Physical distancing must be maintained at 1.5m between people (it's OK to be near your family/household).
- NSW Government currently allows 20 people at public gatherings. Please use common-sense to separate around the park.
- Please don't shake hands, hug people, etc.
- Please don't share food (unless you have shop-bought individualised packs).
- Use hand sanitizer often.
- We will have some church seats Wipe down seats before and after you use them.



I have been holidaying on the South Coast. There has been a lot of rain, wind and large waves crashing to shore throughout the past week. On Thursday afternoon, this beautiful rainbow suddenly appeared as we walked along the coastline. This week reminded me of the current tumultuous times - and how we can experience special moments where God reminds us of his promises to us.

Sharynne

Meet the congregation

Each week we plan to learn more about someone from the congregation. One will be included each week so who will be next?

Send in your answers to these questions and a photo to 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**

JUDY

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

I moved to Bathurst 31 years ago from Johannesburg. However, I was born in the UK and lived in Luton, Stratford Upon Avon, Chichester and Brighton and emigrated to South Africa after completing a Bachelor of Education at Sussex University.

2. **What do you enjoy about Bathurst?**

The four seasons, the beauty that surrounds us, the warm bright sunshine and vast blue skies, the magic mellow light at sunset as it turns the plains to gentle gold.

3. **What do you enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?**

The wonderful people who have become my family - especially when we first migrated here and family seemed very distant in the pre-internet era. I love being part of a multi cultural church family where all are welcomed and belong.

4. **What is something lots of people know about you?**

I have been a Geography/ Environmental Studies teacher at TAFE in Orange and Bathurst, and at La Salle Academy, Lithgow and James Sheahan Catholic High School in Orange. I enjoy travelling - especially to Denmark and Canberra to visit three grand daughters. I have been to Nepal twice as a volunteer Teacher. Earlier this year I was fortunate to travel to Oman and enjoyed hiking in their wild scenic mountains, before making a hasty retreat back to Australia as the Covid pandemic started to escalate.

Hiking in Oman. Feb 2020



- 5 **What is something not many people know about you**

I am a keen swimmer, so at University I joined the SCUBA diving club. I spent four years diving on the Mary Rose in Portsmouth Harbour. This was one of King Henry VIII 's ships that sunk when the crew all moved to one side of the ship to salute the King on the headland. It was overloaded with sailors and cannon balls, and it tipped over to sink into 40m of mud. The remains of the ship have now been raised from the seabed along with many relics that are on view in a purpose built museum.

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. (See the full-page *Notice: Update on Gatherings* on the website for more details.)

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. 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 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 wisdom and care in our communities as the country ‘opens up’ or ‘closes down’ as the situation with Covid 19 develops.
- For all of us as we hear news of fresh outbreaks of the virus and wonder what that means for the future.
- For those who are facing economic hardship as businesses struggle and jobs are lost.
- For those in Aged Care who are still living with restrictions on visits and are feeling isolated and anxious.
- 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

‘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 to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services