



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

**Newsletter** Sunday 25 October 2020

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

## 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?pwd=S3ArMXVhMkp1UXJ2ZCtaNjMveXd6UT09>

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

## 'Sunday at 6' on Zoom

Our informal evening 'Sunday @ 6' service meets via Zoom at 6.00pm 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

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.

## Sunday Morning Worship: 25 October 2020

Resources for this Sunday's worship will be available by Sunday morning on the website <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/blog/> including a video to download.

### Focus Reading

Matthew 22:34-46: Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is, and he replies that it is to love God with everything and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Then he asks whose son the Messiah is. When the religious leaders reply that he is David's son, Jesus asks why David refers to the Messiah as "Lord" – and no one is able to give an answer.

Something to think about:

In the world of war, climate change, poverty, economic crisis and dread diseases, love may appear to be powerless and irrelevant. This may be because our view of love is so often informed not by Jesus, but by Hollywood. When love is nothing more than a feeling that one "falls" into and out of, it has nothing to say to the big issues we face. But, when love is lived as Jesus did – practically, sacrificially, passionately and justly – it speaks directly to the root causes of our struggles. Ultimately all of our dealings in the world will grow out of one of two sources. If fear is the primary driver of our lives, we will ensure we have more than enough weaponry to protect us and we will easily attack any person or country we perceive as a threat. If fear is our foundation, we will hoard our wealth, and we will grab what we can with little concern for the impact on others or on our environment. When fear is our foundation, we will tend to minimise care and compassion for those who are unrelated to us or different from us. But, when love is our foundation, everything changes. Love drives us to seek connection and understanding, not war. Love drives us to share what we have so that all may have their needs met. Love leads us to think carefully about how we treat our environment and how we use our resources, and how we deal with those who are suffering, even if they are unrelated to us. Authentic love is expressed in practical efforts to bring justice, in tough and vulnerable peacemaking, in concern for the "least" and most vulnerable. Authentic love recognises the connections and interdependence between all people and between us and our world. Authentic love is the most desperately needed, and most powerful, solution to the tough struggles of our time. The challenge is whether we are prepared to embrace love, to live love, to "preach" love and to work to spread love through the world. Can we allow love to be the primary force behind our voting, our ethics, our morality, our social participation and our interactions. If we can and do, we will discover that, little by little, the world begins to shift further along a trajectory of compassion.

John Van de Laar <https://sacredise.com/proper-25a>

## Great News!

Our Church will be regathering for worship, face to face from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. We are really looking forward to seeing each other again.

This regathering will be subject to strict adherence to all the conditions relating to being COVID Safe.

- Masks are to be worn
- Those attending can sit in the Galleries as well as Downstairs to maintain the separation of 1.5M as required
- No singing
- Communion will be celebrated in such a way that all conditions for COVID Safety are maintained
- Collection plates will be placed in the Foyer by the Stewards for offerings to be given as people leave at the end of the Service

The COVID Response Team

### *More Good News for Groups!*

With the relaxing of Covid Safe Guidelines a number of our groups have decided to meet again face to face. We have produced some guidelines to help you do this safely. If you haven't received a copy for your group or would like to have a look at them please contact the Covid Response Team at [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com)



I took this photo at my Mum's house last weekend...it reminds me of how much beauty there is around us when we take the time to look and be thankful....Ruth

## Dates for your Diary

Please note that – despite the NSW Government’s easing of restrictions – most activities are not yet “back to normal”. However, some groups are beginning to gather following the Covid guidelines. If you need information about what you need to do to gather safely contact the Covid Response Team at [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com)

Mowing Roster for 24 October  
John Hoyer and Bruce Mulligan

## 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!

## WE PRAY TOGETHER

- For the family and friends of Jeffery Hollis as they grieve the loss of Jeffery and celebrate his life on Monday morning. We pray that they will be surrounded by God’s love.
- For all Year 12 students who are sitting their final exams at the end of a difficult year.
- For all final year students at universities and colleges as they near the end of their studies and face a very unclear short-term future.

**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)**

## CHANGES TO HOW YOU CAN DEPOSIT MONEY

The Finance Committee have been addressing the changes needed for the cessation of the Westpac Agency agreement with UFS and have arranged for the following:

If any congregation members wish to deposit cash and/or cheques for offerings, donations and miscellaneous items they can attend any branch of the Reliance or Unity Bank and deposit the funds to Account no: 100140356

Account Name: Council of Elders

These deposits will remain anonymous

All electronic transactions such as EFT, Direct Debits etc will remain the same, and there is no action needed to be taken with any electronic transactions that are now in place.

Internet transfers can still be made to

BSB: 634634

Account No: 100027964

Account Name: Bathurst City – Giving Direct

Deb (Treasurer)

As we are no longer able to donate food or money as we used to on Communion Sunday, our Welfare Fund has become rather depleted. If you would like to help replenish the fund, which in turn helps less well off members of our community, you may do so by depositing/transferring money to:

Reliance Bank

BSB: 882000

Account/Member No: 1125

Account Name: Council of Elders

Money in this account is used to purchase supermarket vouchers which the recipient can then use to purchase food and other basic necessities

Kaye