



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

April 2021

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

## Family Worship at 9.30am

Good Friday Rev Alan  
Robinson

Easter Sunday Rev Alan  
Robinson - Communion

11 April Brian

18 April Ellie

25 April Julie



We welcome you to worship with us this Easter.

## 'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary,  
informal, all ages worship in  
the Activities Hall with Covid  
Safe conditions.

**There will be no 5pm  
service on Easter Sunday.**

Please note: Service time is  
changing back to 5pm for  
winter.

## 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.

If you have items for the  
Newsletter please send them  
to Ruth at  
[revaughan@bigpond.com](mailto:revaughan@bigpond.com) by  
9pm on the last Wednesday  
of the month.

## An Easter Reflection

One of the great fallacies of human history is the persistent belief that some groups or individuals can find life and liberation alone, or at the expense of others. However, the last century has demonstrated how mistaken this way of living is. We have seen how closely connected we are, and we have experienced how the emphasis on our separation from one another and from our world has brought great suffering and conflict on us and others. The challenge of the resurrection is for us to realise that God has brought life to us all, and that life cannot be extinguished by our foolishness or even by death. Further, the life that God offers is neither for only some people, nor is it only for some other reality after we die. Rather, God's life can and should be known and enjoyed now, but can only really be experienced together.

While it can be tempting to think about the resurrection only in metaphysical terms, a whole new world of possibilities opens up when we see how resurrection permeates everything. When we start to live as resurrection people, we recognise that we participate in resurrection in every moment that we bring life to others, whether through caring for our environment, working to alleviate poverty, serving those in need, learning to understand other cultures and people, or living more simply and peacefully in order to foster justice and equality in our world. Resurrection, then, is a reality that we are called to live – as Paul demonstrates in his life and teaching. We do not just receive resurrection life, but we become carriers of that life to the world – if only we can believe in and embrace its power.

John Van de Laar

<https://sacredise.com/easter-sunday-b/>

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately after the 9.30am Service on Sunday 18th April. The only item of business will be to elect the Congregation's representatives to the Presbytery.

## Mission Matters!

The next step in the Church's Mission Plan is to form Portfolio Teams in the 6 Mission areas. The teams are a new way of working for us but provide lots of exciting opportunities for more people to be involved in moving our Church forward. Would you like to be part of a team? The 6 areas are:



Each team will determine and how and when they meet but all will have a vital role in realizing our Mission Plan.

If you'd like to find out more talk to Judy, David, Robyn, Deb or Julie or fill out one of the Mission Plan Volunteer Sheets, available in the foyer.

## Supporting our Local Mums



On **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm** we are having an afternoon tea in the Activities Hall to hear about the work of Angela Thornhill who is a Parenting Clinician RN at Bathurst Hospital and is responsible for the Substance Use in Pregnancy & Parenting Program.

The Health Dept does not fund multivitamins for these Mums which cost about \$260 per Mum, yet they have been shown to have an extremely beneficial impact on the birth of healthy babies.

Hayley and her baby Natya who have been part of Angela's program will be there to share how the program has helped her family.

We would love you to come along and hear how you can support this great community program.

## WORSHIP AND LUNCH ON SUNDAY 7 MARCH

It was wonderful to have Rev 'Oto Faiva and Bella and their daughters with us. Sharynne recorded the event in pictures and these are just a few.



## BUSS - USS is expanding its Mission!

The Uniting Safe Shelter Team has been looking at its role and how we can be most helpful to the very disadvantaged in the community. This is part of the Church mission plan "Connecting the disconnected".

It's not longer possible to run the Safe Shelter, not only because of Covid but because the University has changed the rules for Paramedic Students, and they are no longer available to be overnight volunteers. It's not possible to fill the gap with enough community volunteers.

So we have been working on a wide variety of different programs of support. These include running a CAFÉ at the Church which provides hot meals, warm clothes and sleeping bags - watch this space for the opening of the 2021 CAFÉ very soon. Other programs include support for pregnant Mums (see the article for the afternoon tea in this newsletter), Bathurst Buddies which provides social opportunities, BBQ breakfast at the Methadone Clinic, family food fun like decorating easter eggs, Pastoral Care, Grocery Vouchers and meeting the needs of the disadvantage as they arise.

In order to better reflect our expanded vision and the fact we can no longer run a Shelter, we have changed our name to Bathurst Uniting Support Services (BUSS). We need to rely on fundraising for these activities as church funds are no longer available to support the programs. If you like to jump on the BUSS and be involved in any of the programs or support them financially then you can deposit in the BUSS account BSB: 634 634 Account Number: 100049962 or talk to Ruth or Julie. A full list of the programs with more detail can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ueq-lkQcdMqWn2URxQdzcalQW3Y-Qrw4/view?usp=sharing>

And of course, always please keep praying!

## EASTER FUN

10 families gathered at the church on Tuesday to decorate Easter biscuits and package them up for their families for Easter. Many thanks again to Sue Gunter who travelled out from Sydney to organise this for us. It was a great way for families to have a fun time together and included families from KUCA, PALs and the new expanded BUSS program.



### MANY WAYS TO GIVE:

- In the collection plate on Sundays
- You can set up a regular direct debit to the church account (see Deb to do this)
- Deposits to general church funds can be made in person at any branch of the Reliance or Unity Bank. They will be anonymous.  
Account no: 100140356  
Account Name: Council of Elders
- **OR** Internet transfers can be made to  
BSB: 634634 Account No: 100027964  
Account Name: Bathurst City – Giving Direct
- If you wish to deposit money into our welfare account the details are:  
BSB: 882000 Account /Member No: 1125  
Account Name: Council of Elders
- If you wish to deposit into the BUSS account the details are BSB: 634634  
Account Number: 100049962

## TECH SESSION

On Saturday 17 April from 1.30pm in the Activities Hall there will be a session to help with service preparation and use of the church AV system.

There will be brainstorming and ideas exchange as well as some time working through issues on the AV system.

The session is open to all who are interested in learning how to use what we have available for services.

Contact Tim for more information