



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

March 2023

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

REFLECTION

We are in the season of Lent. Lent is 40 days, not including Sundays. Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, a little Easter, if you like. The forty days coincides with the forty days of the flood in the time of Noah, the forty years the Israelites were in the wilderness following the Exodus from captivity in Egypt and before entering the Promised Land, and the forty days of Jesus in the wilderness being tested.

Lent is a time to reassess our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our reassessment is part of our preparations to enter into the Christian pilgrimage of Holy Week with Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and the Great Three Days of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day. Like Bathurst Uniting Church this year, many Churches will often include Holy Week morning prayers; our will be on zoom.

Today many churches assist their people prepare by conducting Lenten Bible Studies, often on the theme of Easter. Our church is no different. It is not too late to join a Lenten Study group for this year.

Looking to Easter. Historically baptisms were conducted on Easter day. Also, people who had strayed from the faith and were returning were reincorporated. Usually, congregations also reaffirm their baptism on Easter Sunday.

In the very early church baptism confirmation was one action, but the confirmation part was conducted by the Bishop. As the church expanded, Bishops could not be at every baptism, so the practice arose of baptism which was later confirmed by the Bishop when they were able to visit that church.

Worship Services

9.30am on Sundays in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

5 Mar Brian Mowbray

12 Mar Rev Keith Hamilton **Holy Communion**

19 Mar Rev Keith Hamilton

26 Mar Rev Keith Hamilton

'Sunday @ 6'

At 6pm (during daylight savings period) – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

Please note: Daylight savings ends on 2 April so worship will be at 5pm.

Over time the baptism and confirmation became separated by years. Many churches baptised infants and when the person was of an age they reaffirmed their baptism in a confirmation service. In the Catholic and Anglican churches the Bishop still conducts the confirmation. In churches such as the Uniting, Presbyterian, Methodist and some others, confirmation is usually conducted by a minister of the word or deacon, though where there is no minister, it might be conducted by a Church Council authorised person, and maybe someone who is authorised by the Presbytery to conduct the sacraments.

Confirmation is reaffirming Baptism. That is, it is usual that people who were baptised as infants, now teenagers or adults, have reaffirmed the baptism and the vows that were made on their behalf. Confirmation includes a blessing.

On Easter Sunday in Bathurst in our morning service may well include a baptism, a confirmation, and the entire congregation will reaffirm their baptism. We will also have communion.

Blessings,
Keith Hamilton

HOLY WEEK

- Palm Sunday 9:30 am service 2 April: begin with a gathering on the front lawn and walk into church with Palm Branches.
- morning prayers Monday to Thursday on Bathurst UC Zoom, 7-7:15 am 3-6 April
- Holy Thursday service at 6-7 pm, 6 April includes soup meal, and communion.

EASTER

- Good Friday 9:30 am
- Good Friday Julie and I will co-host with David and Sharynne coffee and hot cross buns at the Hamilton's.
- Holy Saturday: working bee 9:30-10:30 am, morning tea 10:30-11 am. bring your cleaning cloths etc, dust down the pews upstairs and downstairs, polish the tableware, put up Easter day banners, flowers, colourful cloths etc, share morning tea together and a day appropriate prayer.
- Easter Day 9:30 am: Reaffirmation of Vows of Baptism and Communion, confirmation and baptism

LENTEN STUDIES

The Faith and Worship Team of Bathurst Uniting Church encourage our members, attenders and friends to prepare for Easter through the Lenten Bible Study groups. Most of them have started but you can still join a group. You would be warmly welcomed.

Lent has traditionally been a time when people prepared for Easter. Today, as in the early church people prepare for Baptism, and confirmation held on Easter Day. The faithful also prepare to celebrate again the Great Three Days of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day.

The Bathurst UC Lenten Bible Studies details are below. There are six options that cover Monday-Thursday, day and evening, in person and zoom

1. Monday Morning Bible Study at Ruth's home, at 10 am. Dates: 20, 27 February, 6, 13, 20, 27 March
2. Monday lunchtime Bible Study Janet's home, at 1-2 pm. Dates: 27 February, 6, 13, 20, 27 March, 3 April.
3. Monday evening on the Bathurst UC zoom, 7-8 pm. Led by Julie and Keith Hamilton. Dates 27 February, 6, 13, 20, 27 March.
4. Tuesday morning, BUSS rooms, 140a William Street, Bathurst, at 10:30 am. Led by Julie. Dates: 28 February, 7, 14, 21, 28 March
5. Wednesday evening at Ellie and Brian's home at 7:30pm. Dates: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March
6. Thursday evening at Sharynne and David's home at 7pm. Dates: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March

Material: Lent Event Bible Studies are from Uniting World. They are available on the following link: [Lent Event Resources \(unitingworld.org.au\)](https://unitingworld.org.au)

Using the same link, above, you can also access a daily prayer guide for use each day during Lent from 22 February.

Further enquiries can be directed to any of the people named above, or to Rev Keith Hamilton, keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com or 0417487446

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following people who have all been elected to the Church Council.

- Lilian
- Betty
- Maree

DO YOU HAVE ANY STAMPS AT HOME THAT YOU NO LONGER WANT?

The Synod Stamp Committee continues to organise the collection and sale of stamps .

In 2022 the sale of stamps realized \$29,200 and Bathurst was given a grant of \$500 to purchase a vacuum cleaner to be used in Pals room.

Please continue to collect stamps putting them in the green box at the bottom of the stairs as you enter the church. Stamps can be supplied on envelopes, cut off envelopes with at least 2 cm around the stamp ready for trimming or carefully trimmed with 3mm paper surround. Postcards, First Day covers and commercial covers prior to 1950 welcome.

If you have any questions please contact Sandra or John Judge.

BUSS NEWS

BUSS activities continue to be well attended and appreciated.



This week a donation of 100 meals was received from Harvest Café. They cooked them for our café with ingredients that were not needed for the recent Cross Country event. We thank those at Harvest Café for such a generous donation. Our weekend guests will be very well fed!

COMING EVENTS

Easter Biscuit decorating for families.

3.30pm on Wednesday 29th March, downstairs in the BUSS rooms

Traditions of Easter for adults.

9am on Thursday 30th March in the Activities Hall.
Everyone is welcome to these events.



An Easter Barbecue will be held on Sunday 2 April instead of the café. Live music will be provided by the Music BUSS group. All are welcome to come along.

COMMUNITY CARE CALLS

Seymour Centre has asked us to share this information with you.

The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) auspiced by Bathurst Seymour Centre, provides low-level assistance to remain at home. The CHSP is for senior Australians who need support to live independently at home and are either: ∪ aged 65 years or over (50 or over for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples) and have sensory impairments, functional limitations and need assistance ∪ prematurely aged (50 years or older; 45 years or older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) and are on a low income, homeless, or at risk of being homeless as a result of housing stress or not having secure accommodation. The Social Support – Individual program, called Community Care Calls is assistance provided by a qualified Support Worker. Bathurst Seymour Centre offers regular phone calls to eligible clients who are socially isolated, at risk of being socially isolated or live in a geographically isolated area.

How to register My Aged Care is the entry point to the aged care system for older people, their families and carers and is responsible for conducting assessments for the CHSP. The first step to access government funded aged care services is to call 1800 200 422 or visit their website, which we can always help you with. www.myagedcare.gov.au Depending on the demand for the service you may need to be placed on a waiting list if we are at capacity.

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.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com

Mowing Roster

11 Mar - Brian

25 Mar - David

How to get information/stories out there

For good news stories, upcoming events or updates to be added to the church website email Allan - allanwray@hotmail.com

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