



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

November, 2024



**This Sunday 10 November 2024** at Bathurst Uniting Church: the closing of the year of celebration of the sesquicentenary of the William Davidson Pipe Organ. The pipe organ was first played on 13-15 March 1874, and has been consistently used since to lead and inspire the people in worship of God.

This Sunday:

- Recital from 9:15
- Service from 9:30, including well-known hymns and exploration of the lyrics, tunes and theology.
- Acknowledgement of William Davidson the builder of the organ and who later enlarged the organ.
- Acknowledgment of the recitalists through 2024
- Favourite hymn singing: choose your favourite hymn
- Morning tea and **bring and share lunch to follow**

## As in the ending so in the beginning, Christ

While forty percent of the Australian population, at the 2021 census, said they have no religion, the fact is everyone has practices, habits and behaviours – whether intentional or not - that in some way support or contribute to as well as inform and shape the way people think and live. Those rituals, practices, habits and behaviours can be life affirming, lifegiving, or forms of intentional or unintentional self-destruction.

The church, the body of Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit, the people of God, also have practices and rituals that can assist people in their faithfulness to God. Following the church year is one such practice.

We are in the last weeks of the church year. The year ends on a high note with Christ the King or Reign of Christ Sunday. That Sunday in November shifts from year to year, depending upon which day, not date, Christmas falls to enable four Sundays in Advent. This year Christ the King Sunday is November 24.

The day celebrates that the risen crucified one will bring creation to its culmination. The *Basis of Union*, Paragraph 3, of the Uniting Church confesses that “The Church lives between the time of Christ’s death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which Christ will bring.” *The Apostles Creed* confesses we believe in “the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting.” Christ the King Sunday, or Reign of Christ Sunday makes no sense at all if Jesus did not rise from the dead, if Jesus is not the fully divine fully human Second person of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The same applies to All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2) – also known as *Commemoration of the Faithfully Departed* - which combined we have just celebrated. The

Christian faith is that when those who are in Christ die, they continue in Christ. It means that the saints on earth – the church – and the saints beyond death, in heaven, are interconnected in Christ.

Some churches across the world link All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday in a season called *After All Saints*, or *All Saints Tide*. The point is making the link between All Saints and Reign of Christ, and the connection with Advent, which looks for the coming of Christ again.

What is the background to all these religious practices? For the hundreds of years after Jesus, the church annually celebrated the faith of those who had been martyred on May 13 each year. The day has been officially observed since about the fifth century in memory of Christian martyrs. In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration to 1 November. What the Pope did was superimpose a Christian celebration onto a pagan festival, just as was done with the Christmas celebration. The day became known as All Saints Day. All Souls Day on November 2, was a later addition (1000) when people gave thanks and remembered people of the faith who had died.

Christ the King Sunday is a relatively recent addition to the church year. It began at the initiative of Pope Paul the Sixth in 1925. It was moved from October to the last Sunday of the Church year in 1970, to emphasise that at the end, Christ.

What these church religious practices are attempting to do is counter secularism, particularly individualism and consumerism. Both consumerism and individualism become idols in which people place their trust. Church religious practices challenge the secular religious practices and remind the faithful that our trust is in the living God of life and death and beyond death. Secular religious practices encourage an anxiety that “I do not have enough,” that “I might miss out,” that “I need to buy the latest gadget and the latest clothes.” It is a fetish about always trying to get there, never having enough. That I am valued by what I do, and perhaps what I possess and even who I know. The Christian faith, on the other hand through its religious practices is reminding the faithful that their identity is in Christ. The attention is not on doing, but ‘being’ in Christ. That we can be honest and acknowledge our sins and receive God’s mercy and forgiveness. That we are in the communion of Saints through no effort of our own, through the work of Christ alone. The pain of past failures is transformed through confession and forgiveness into faith. Anxiety and optimism – peddled by consumerism and individualism, are transformed into a living hope.

Gregory Beale wrote a book called *We Become What We Worship*. His thesis is *What we revere, we resemble, either for ruin or restoration*. He suggests that a theme running through the Bible is the comparison between worship of the living God and worship of idols. The rituals and practices of the church are with the intent that we keep our focus on the living God. They can assist us keep our worship on the Christ of God rather than on idols of self and those made with human hands.

Blessings  
Keith Hamilton

### **With Love to the World (daily Bible reading) subscription**

If you would like to subscribe to the daily Bible reading booklet **With Love to the World (four editions)** for the coming year, please complete the form and return it to Bathurst Uniting Church (Attention: Marion Perry) or hand it to Marion in person. Forms are available at the back of the church and attached to this email. The cost of the year’s subscription is \$28. You do not need to pay now as an invoice will be sent to you later by the Treasurer.



## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Tuesday November 26, 6.00pm

at **Vanilla Bean**, 109 Bentinck Street.

Please contact Kaye or Maureen by Sunday 24 November if you wish to attend. In fairness to the restaurant, bookings are essential. A great evening of food and fellowship is guaranteed!

### BEST WISHES TO PURE IMAGINATION PERFORMING ARTS (PIPA)



After many years of using the Church's facilities, Natalie and Pure Imagination Performing Arts (PIPA) have relocated to other premises – due to the continual growth in the clientele attending PIPA, and their need for additional space.

The Church thanks Natalie for the care she has taken of the Halls over the years, and wishes her all the best for the future.

### BUSS News

Another great Open Mic night in October

Our first craft stall



Garden to plate – Frypan Warriors



## Coming Events

- If you like crafting come along to our craft workshops on Friday afternoons at 1.30 to 3 pm in the BUSS rooms. Everyone is welcome!
- Sunday 10 November 2.30 – 4.00 pm Activities Hall  
Drug and alcohol training for anyone who is interested.
- Friday 13 December 3.30-5pm Activities Hall  
Gingerbread House decorating - a great fun activity for families.  
If you know anyone who would like to come please contact one of the BUSS team.
- Sunday 15 December 12-2pm  
Café Christmas Barbecue .  
**All are welcome** as we celebrate the Christmas season and say thank you to our volunteers, helpers and supporters of BUSS

## Worship Services

### 9.30am in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to

<http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

10 November David, Organ celebration

17 November Rev Keith Hamilton

24 November Rev Keith Hamilton

1 December First Sunday of Advent

Rev Keith Hamilton Holy Communion

### 'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

On the first Sunday of each month there will be Holy Communion and a shared meal.

The next newsletter will be sent out and available by Sunday 1 December.

At this stage, there is no plan to have a January newsletter, although if there is information which needs to be circulated there will be emails.

If you have anything which needs to be advertised before early February 2025 please let me know by 27 November.

Thanks

Ruth

## PLEASE NOTE

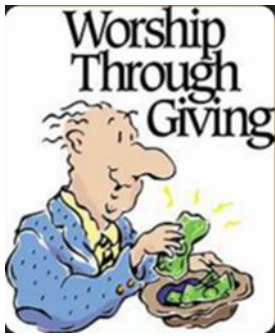
The newsletter email address is [bathurstucanews@gmail.com](mailto:bathurstucanews@gmail.com) . Please send items by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month

Please send news or information for the website to [allanwray@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)

## Mowing Roster

16 November David

30 November Brian



## Many Ways to Give:

**There is now a Tap and Go facility in the church foyer where you can give to various options with your card.**

*To pay invoices issued, to donate to the work of the Church, donations to the Organ Fund, etc:*

*For electronic remittances only @ UFS:*

**BSB: 634634                      Account No: 100019125**

**Account Name:** Bathurst City - Working Account

**Narration:** Please indicate why the funds are for.

***For cash or cheque deposits @ Reliance Bank***

**BSB: 882000                      Account No: 300003447**

**Account Name:** Bathurst Uniting Church

**Narration:** Please indicate what the funds are for by asking the teller to enter it into the Bank system.

***For Giving Direct and Offertories:***

***Please see Deb Mina if you wish to set up a regular Direct Debit or Periodical Payment.***

**BSB: 634634                      Account No: 100027964**

**Account Name:** Bathurst City - Giving Direct

**Narration:** None is required as these deposits are completely anonymous

***Bathurst Uniting Support Services (BUSS)***

**For the work of BUSS as a General Donation or for a Specific Program being run by BUSS**

**BSB: 634634                      Account No: 100049962**

**Account Name:** Bathurst City – BUSS

**Narration:** Please indicate what the funds are for, or if you wish to make an anonymous donation a narration is not required.