BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

17th October Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021-THE YEAR OF HOPE

Moderator's Pastoral Letter

Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA
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Greetings to you all in these times of change.

Dear Friends,

As a Church and in our wider communities, we're all facing different challenges, and responding in different ways, with all the ups and downs that come along the way. That's partly to do with where we are: in Tasmania, or metro Melbourne, or rural or regional Victoria, or in border communities. I know I'm not alone in going through phases in how I'm feeling. Tiredness. Energy. Frustration. Disappointment. Hopefulness. Grief. Anticipation. At times, motivation and creativity are harder to find. Our boundaries are being pushed and our resilience is being tested.

Over these last weeks, I've had the chance to talk with a lot of people about how they and their communities are experiencing and responding to the ongoing changes. We have a deep hunger for all sorts of things at present: being able to see people we love, getting back to work, being able to travel outside our restricted zone or across state borders, being able to gather as communities again. We also have a deep hunger for certainty. Though if we are certain of anything, it is that uncertainty is part of the reality we are living with. When things keep changing so fast, firm plans and clarity are beyond our reach, no matter how much we might want this.

Questions about vaccination are a more recent focus for a whole raft of additional uncertainties we are living with. Living with ambiguity and uncertainty are a part of being human, and I suspect we'll be living with these particular questions for a while yet.

All the same, while questions about vaccination seem to be raising new concerns and uncertainties for some, most are expressing a huge sense of relief that so many in our community are responding to the calls to become vaccinated out of a concern to protect others, especially those most vulnerable. Many describe themselves as pragmatic, focussed simply on how we can make things work the best we can, as we respond to the new requirements as they unfold. There seems to be an acknowledgement of the uncertainty that is inevitable, as things take time for the details to be worked out. And most also express feeling really encouraged that our communities of faith are pulling together in the way we are, with eyes and hearts directed to finding ways to make our communities safer, to protect those who are most vulnerable amongst us.

A big question before us all is: how can we be a part of this? There's no doubt that when we look to loving our neighbour, serving our community in compassion, and living out our calling in following Jesus in care for those on the margins and most in need of care, it costs us. It may indeed cost us very deeply.



Latest on our Sunday Worship Services - more details on page 4
Sunday 17th October - 10.00 am Online worship

Page 1

There are new requirements this week for all authorised workers to be vaccinated, in order to protect the lives and health of others in the community whom we serve. These requirements apply to Ministers and ministry agents, and all those who serve the Church, whether in leading worship, filming, property management or community service.

We are still missing some of the details to help us know how to manage things. In a fast-paced changing environment, it takes time for details to be formed and glitches to be ironed out. I'm aware there are many people working long hours to bring guidance to our communities and to answer their questions. But there are some things that we are certain about.

If we want to be there for those God loves, caring for those who are sick or grieving or in need of companionship and love, serving each other and our community as followers of Jesus, then we want to do this in ways that protect them and keep them safe the best way we can. We want to have their interests at heart. And the question then is: how do we discern how best to do this? To whom do we listen to guide our way?

Core to our Christian faith is that we are called into the communal life of God. Core to a Uniting Church understanding, and a long history of Christian faith and life, is that we decide things communally rather than individually or in isolation.

When we discern and make decisions as people of faith, we do it communally. We need to hear each other to understand the implications of any course of action upon others. We listen and attend to the wisdom of others gathered in community, praying together, in light of the scriptures and guided by the light of Christ, seeking to discern the Spirit of God, for the sake of the world God so loves. And we listen to those who are widely recognised experts in medical science, epidemiology and public health to inform our responses in faith (as the Basis of Union clearly guides us).

There is no individual discernment regarding vaccination which does not have a deep and far-reaching effect upon the lives of others in our closer and wider community. We are not our own.

For those of us in a covenantal relationship with the Church and local communities of faith (e.g. ministry agents and leaders of congregations), decisions about how we respond to vaccination requirements are not private decisions to be made in isolation. These are decisions to be made prayerfully and communally. It may cost us to attend to the commitments we have to those with whom we are in a covenantal relationship. It may cost us deeply. How can we live into this commitment in ways that ensure safety for others as well as ourselves?

Jesus calls us into community, to live with and for each other, deeply in tune with the life of God.

In these times, we are aware of the need to delve deep into spiritual practices that connect us with the source of life and peace, deepening our connections into our wider communities. We might be alone or in communities of faith; online, on the couch or outdoors; speaking out loud in conversation, in chat rooms or in praying in silence; through daily prayer, worship, bible reading, working together with others in ministry and mission; or in contemplation. In all these ways we are finding hope and being sustained in our lives by the God of life, who comes to us, walks with us in Jesus and calls us to follow.

One of the strange gifts of these times is being brought back to basics: remembering who and whose we are, and who we are for. We are seeking out how we can be in tune with the God who is our life. We are constantly being 'begged to lead a life worthy of the calling to which we are being called.' (Eph 4:1)

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Rev Denise Liersch Moderator

IMPORTANT NOTICES Pages 6, 7 & 8

Worship At Home

Acknowledgement of Country

Today, as we gather in our homes, we acknowledge the Wauthaurong Peoples, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering. We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

Prayer of Approach

We approach your throne of grace, O God – with the confidence given us because of Jesus, our great high priest. We are amazed at such a privilege – help us not to take it for granted, but to come to you in joy, and willingness to hear from you. May we loosen our grip on the things of our lives that hinder us and commit ourselves afresh to you today. Amen.

A prayer of thanksgiving

Lord, where we have been puffed up with a sense of our own importance, forgive us. We confess we are often tempted by the ways of this world, seduced by its ideals of power – whether on a large scale, or within the many small interactions of our lives. Help us not to lord it over others, determined to be acknowledged or to get our own way. Instead, help us to serve, to seek peace, and to put others first – for that is the pattern of life to which you call us. Help us pattern our lives on Jesus, the master who chose to serve, in order to bring you glory and us freedom: in his name, we pray. Amen.

Notes on the Bible readings Isaiah 53.4-12, Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45

Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover. This is the road to the cross and Jesus has already spoken about the rejection and suffering that awaits him, while affirming his confidence that God will vindicate him. He has hinted that his followers will share in both the suffering and the vindication.

James and John show a mixture of understanding and misunderstanding in their request to sit at Jesus' left and right hand, in glory (v.37). They have grasped that Jesus will be glorified, but have misunderstood the nature of his glorification. The cup is a metaphor for whatever comes from God, and Jesus says that they are called to share in his vocation of suffering. The model of true greatness that Jesus offers is one of servanthood. Vulnerability and suffering are countercultural hallmarks of greatness.

Isaiah 53.4-12 is from the fourth of Isaiah's 'Servant Songs'. It is not clear whether the servant is an individual, or a group, but the story of the song is that through suffering, the servant will be glorified. This anonymous figure has often been interpreted retrospectively as Jesus.

James and John's desire for honour and glory is very apposite today. The gospel way that Jesus describes is a way of service and possible suffering. However, in the end, God will vindicate those who have followed it.

A personal prayer

Oh God, sometimes I am so aware of all the things I cannot do. I feel tired, vulnerable and worry that my efforts are not worthwhile. But you lift up my head. And one touch of your love reminds me that this is all about you. I am here for you. I am part of your plan, and part of your family. Help me to serve you today, in my own small way. For Jesus' sake. Amel

Live your faith

Try to do something secretly for someone else – someone you live with, or work with, or just come across occasionally. Do it simply and only because you have heard that they have a need that you can help with.

Questions for reflection

- ► How might this picture enlarge our conception of greatness?
- Where have you seen unconventional greatness?
- What's the link between greatness and service?





Date	Time Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Oct 17	10.00am Rev. Ikani	G. Coomber	E. Richards	L. Moss	L. McCann	G. Schneider	L. Rankin
				T. Yates			
Oct 17	et 17 Communion Flowers			Morning Tea			
	N/A B. Couper			R. & J. Jeffers			
		*		R. Pearson			
Date 7	Time Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Oct 24		R. Pearson	B. Couper	R. Ferguson	L. McCann	R. Bunting	L. Rankin
				D. Stephens			
	24 Communion Flowers						
Oct 24	Communion	Flowers		Morning Tea			
Oct 24	Communion N/A	Flowers B. Couper		Morning Tea H. McCann			
Oct 24							
Oct 24 Date 7	N/A		Readers (H. McCann		PA Operator	Organist
	N/A Time Leader	B. Couper	Readers (H. McCann J. & G. Schneider Greeters & Ushers		PA Operator B. Jennings	Organist L. Rankin
Date 7	N/A Time Leader	B. Couper Leader's Steward		H. McCann J. & G. Schneider Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	-	
Date 7	N/A Time Leader	B. Couper Leader's Steward		H. McCann J. & G. Schneider Greeters & Ushers C. Schaller	PowerPoint	-	
Date 7	N/A Time Leader 10.00am Rev. Ikani	B. Couper Leader's Steward J. Ferguson		H. McCann J. & G. Schneider Greeters & Ushers C. Schaller E. Wood	PowerPoint L. McCann	-	
Date 7	N/A Cime Leader 10.00am Rev. Ikani Communion	B. Couper Leader's Steward J. Ferguson Flowers		H. McCann J. & G. Schneider Greeters & Ushers C. Schaller E. Wood Morning Tea	PowerPoint L. McCann	-	

Thank you to these willing people for keeping our Church services going. If you need to swap please endeavour to do so or if finding it difficult phone Julie 0418996592

Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Lord, we pray we may be like Barnabas and become a source or encouragement to our family, friends and people we interact with during life's journey. Help us to display kindness, compassion, love and understanding as we live out our Christian faith.

Loving God, we worship You because You are worthy to be praised. Thank You for Your daily presence, for Your peace and joy as we put our trust in You. May we be steadfast and consistent, unmoved by the ups and downs of life.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for chaplains, Carers and visitors who attend hospitals and nursing homes to reach out and care for people who are struggling with various health issues and loneliness. Encourage them to show genuine compassion and kindness as they interact with people in need.

Peter Woods

Lectionary Readings

Oct 24 - Pentecost 22	Oct 31 - Pentecost 23	Nov 1 - All Saints Day
Jb 42: 1 - 6, 10 - 17	Ru 1: 1 - 18	Is 25: 6 - 9
Psalm 34: 1 - 8, (19 - 22)	Psalm 146	Psalm 24
Heb 7: 23- 28	Heb 9: 11- 14	Rev 21: 1- 6a
Mark 10: 46 - 52	Mark 12: 28 - 34	Jn 11: 32 - 44
	Jb 42: 1 - 6, 10 - 17 Psalm 34: 1 - 8, (19 - 22) Heb 7: 23- 28	Jb 42: 1 - 6, 10 - 17 Ru 1: 1 - 18 Psalm 34: 1 - 8, (19 - 22) Psalm 146 Heb 7: 23- 28 Heb 9: 11- 14

WORSHIP
UPDATE
NEWS FLASH

There will be an online worship service for this Sunday October 17th. You are welcome to join together at the same time of 10.00 am and afterwards for a chat if you wish using this zoom link:

https://zoom.us/j/99984774012?pwd=Ky85NGtwbnZqblh2YzFGNDdDZEM1QT09 Meeting ID: 999 8477 4012 - Passcode: 1234

Online worship services will be available to be viewed via our website by 10.00am each Sunday. https://buc.unitingchurch.org.au

"WATCH THIS SPACE – FUNDRAISER FOR BUSHIKORI"







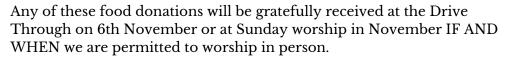


THANK YOU FOR STILL WATCHING THIS SPACE! FURTHER NEWS ON OUR FORTHCOMING DRIVE-THRU.

"TWO-IN-ONE" DRIVE-THRU EVENT – SATURDAY, 6th NOVEMBER. The day of this fundraising event for BUSHIKORI is fast approaching. From 10 am to around 11 am you have the opportunity to bring monetary donations to the driveway of Belmont Uniting Church. There will be red buckets and smiling faces (behind the masks) to receive your gifts. Also, there will be plants for sale for the early arrivals, with all proceeds going to Bushikori. This has been a particularly difficult year financially. The Geelong Friends of Bushikori Committees have been unable to organise their usual fund-raising events such as film and trivia nights due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The second aspect of our "Two-in-One" Event is the collection of non-perishable food for UNITING BARWON for distribution to individuals, couples and families struggling in these difficult times.

6th November DRIVE-THRU

Uniting Care, Geelong suggests the following food donations – Staple Foods: pasta sauce, tinned fruit & vegies, tuna, long life milk, cereal, baked beans, Coles vouchers for food (not for alcohol or cigarettes) Christmas Treats: puddings & cakes, tinned ham, sweets & chocolate, juices & soft drinks.

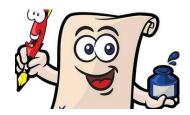


For anyone wishing to support Bushikori or Uniting but cannot physically get to the Belmont Uniting Church on 6TH November to make your contribution, please contact Rosslyn Buckwell on 0407 326 023 or Sue & Bill Jennings on 0409431525 to arrange a person to pick up your donation from your home. THANK YOU to everyone for your continued interest and support.

Jean Murray (Mission and Outreach Committee) & Sue & Bill Jennings (Friends of Bushikori C'mtee).



from the Editor's desk



a Brain Teaser!!!!

Were you able to unjumble these blue colours?

ALBCOT - COBALT

YSK - SKY

AYNV - NAVY

PIPREASH - SASPPHIRE

EXAS - SAXE

KAPCECO - PEACOCK

MUARIAAQNE - AQUAMARINE

WOFROCLRNE - CORNFLOWER

GAITENN - GENTIAN

DAVERLEN - LAVENDER

MENIRA - MARINE

RAUEZ - AZURE

Congratulations to Anna Wood who guessed them all correct.

And your prize Anna is!!!!!

When you walk outside tomorrow and look up, the Blue Sky is yours for the day!!!!! Aren't you EXCITED?



Beryl Johns

We pray for Beryl now at home after surgery at Epworth last Wednesday.

Doreen Stephens

Our prayers are also for Doreen now at home after a procedure in Melbourne last Monday



▶ IMPORTANT NOTICE



You will see in this edition some information about the new Public Health Order requiring employers to gather and record vaccination status information of workers. The term "workers" includes unpaid staff and volunteers. You may also be aware that from 15 October unvaccinated workers are not permitted to attend workplaces or work in the community, or work anywhere other than from their home.

Advice from the Synod is that the requirement applies to our worship leaders, cleaners, organists, children's leaders and anyone involved with building maintenance or gardening.

Belmont UC is required to keep a vaccination register of our "workers".

When you consider the many ways in which our members serve each other and our community on behalf of the congregation, I think we may all be classed as worker/volunteers!

If you are an office bearer, have a leadership role, or are on a roster, I would encourage you to provide your details for our vaccination register. Even if your normal volunteer or service activities are on hold, having this information will assist with helping us to reopen our church, worship services and groups.

Having an up-to-date vaccination register is going to be critical in reopening our church and our life together as restrictions ease.

The vaccination register is confidential. Only Ray Ferguson and myself (as Chairperson and Secretary) will have access to the information. We may be required to show the register to a Public Health Officer or a Worksafe officer, or to a Synod or Presbytery nominated person.

- For fully vaccinated members, the information needed is your name, vaccination certificate number, date of 2nd vaccination and vaccine type.
- For partially vaccinated members, the information needed is the date of the 1st dose.
 - booking date of the 2nd dose, and vaccine type.
- For members with a medical exemption, we will need the medical certificate date, doctor's name, and to sight the certificate.

You can email this information to me directly at glengeel@yahoo.com.au or put it in our pigeon holes, or speak to Ray or myself directly.

Please contact Ray or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Glen Coomber

As of Friday October 15, it is mandatory that any employer gathers and records vaccination status information on any person working anywhere other than from the worker's own residence.

Who needs to provide proof of Vaccination?

This applies to all paid staff and to any unpaid (volunteer) staff working from any location other than their own residence. This is a requirement throughout the entire state of Victoria.

Who needs to provide proof of Vaccination?

This applies to all paid staff and to any unpaid (volunteer) staff working from any location other than their own residence. This is a requirement throughout the entire state of Victoria and applies to everyone who is on the government's Authorised Worker lists. Those lists can be found here.

Who needs to see and record the proof of Vaccination status?

Should proof be required by Health authorities, it is important that this information be available at the place where the work is done, or from where it is coordinated. Therefore, this information needs to be provided to, and recorded by, the Church Council for any authorised work activity on any church property or on behalf of the church. Church councils do not need this information for staff of paid contractors (eg plumbers or garden maintenance companies) as their employer must receive and record this proof.

Who would this apply to at our church?

Roles which would need to provide proof of vaccination status would likely include the worship leader, cleaner, organist/musician, Covid checkin marshals, those participating in recording/ broadcasting live-streamed services, children's leader, food bank workers and anyone involved with building maintenance or gardening.

Does this requirement apply to Ministers?

While there appear to be some exemptions under certain circumstances from the requirement to gather this information from Ministers and other faith leaders, it is strongly recommended that Vaccination Status information be requested from Ministers to ensure compliance in all situations.

What if the proof is not provided?

An employer of a worker must not permit a worker who is unvaccinated to work for that employer outside the worker's ordinary place of residence, unless that person is medically exempted from vaccination requirements. If an employer does not hold vaccination information about a worker, the employer must treat the worker as if the worker is unvaccinated.

What information is required?

The Vaccination register must record the name of all staff and volunteers working onsite.

Beside each, it must show

- For fully vaccinated (2 doses)— the date of the 2nd dose, the vaccination document number and the type of vaccine received
- For partially vaccinated (1 dose)- the date of the 1st dose, the date due for 2nd dose and the type of vaccine received
- For excepted (medically exempt) the type of exemption, the name of the medical practitioner who issued the certificate and the date.

How should the information be recorded?

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has produced a simple form to assist all Church Councils to meet the above obligation. This form can be found here

Who will have access to this information?

Synod's Crisis Management Team is recommending that no more than two people at any location have access to that location's staff vaccination records. It may be required at some point that authorised staff from either the Synod or Presbytery be able to verify compliance. At any time, this information may be requested by an Authorised Health Official.

Will this replace Permitted Worker Permits?

As of Friday October 15, any authorised worker in Metropolitan Melbourne or any area of Regional Victoria currently under "stay-at-home" orders will be required to carry both a valid Permitted Worker Permit and evidence of their vaccination status in order to attend any workplace.

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Uniting Church in Australia SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



By October 15 all workers who are on the Authorised Worker list must have received their first vaccine, or be booked to receive their 1st dose by Oct 22, to attend any workplace. They must also receive their second dose by November 26. This includes faith leaders, marriage celebrants and funerary services.

The following restrictions apply to all Regional Victorian Local Government Areas EXCLUDING those currently under lockdown. If you live and/or work in any LGA under lockdown, you should refer to the Metro Melbourne FAQs for guidance for the duration of the lockdown period.

- Stay at Home requirements have been lifted, but residents of Regional Victoria must not travel to metropolitan Melbourne or any regional area which is in lockdown other than for permitted reasons (eg permitted work, to visit an intimate partner, for care or compassionate reasons, to obtain goods/ services provided they are from the nearest facility to your home).
 - Travel to Metro Melb or other lockdown regions for a COVID vaccination is not permitted (even if you have a pre-existing booking). Businesses in Regional Victoria must conduct an ID check to ensure patrons are not from metro Melbourne or other lockdown regions.
- Masks must be carried at all times and must be worn at all times indoors and outdoors by Victorians aged 12 years or over unless at home, or when visiting an intimate partner's place of residence, or if an exemption applies. Face masks are recommended for primary school aged children indoors or outdoors unless at home or if an exemption applies. Face masks may only be removed to eat and to drink non-alcoholic beverages.
- Visitors to the home are not permitted. Intimate partner visits or single person bubble permitted.

- Public outdoor gatherings are limited to 10 people only. This does not include back yards or other areas of a private residence.
- Religious gatherings and ceremonies are permitted with up to 20 persons per venue, plus those workers necessary to conduct the ceremony. COVID Check-in marshals must ensure all attendees check-in.
- Funerals (indoors or outdoors) maximum of 20 people (or 5 if held at a private home) plus those required to conduct the funeral, providing all persons in attendance are from Regional Victoria. Children under 12 months are not counted in the cap. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure all attendees check-in
- Weddings (indoors or outdoors) maximum of 10 people at a venue, including the couple and two witnesses. The celebrant and one photographer are additional to the cap. Children under 12 months are not counted in the cap. COVID Check-in Marshals must ensure all attendees check-in. Dancefloors not permitted.
- Work: if you can work from home you should work from home.
 - By Oct 15 all staff, whether paid or unpaid, must:
 - Have received at least one COVID Vaccination dose or be booked in for their first dose by Oct 22, unless medically exempt from vaccination requirements and
 - Provide their employer with proof of their vaccination status before attending any workplace other than their normal place of residence.
 - By Nov 26 the requirement is for all staff to be fully vaccinated in order to be able to attend a workplace
 - Offices may return with 25% or up to 10 people
 if the total workplace is 40 persons or less.
 Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies.
 Permitted worker permits are now only required
 for people who live and/or work in Metropolitan
 Melbourne or other lockdown areas

■ Schools

- Open full time for Prep to Grade 2, Year 7, 11, 12 and final year VCAL students only.
- Years 3-6 and Years 8-10 can attend 2 days per week.

Continued P3



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2



Teardrops
He colors like rain
As they fall
Softening the flames
Of sorrows
Who echo the pain

Stars
He numbers
Naming them all
As we slumber
Revealing a heart
Full of emotion
And wonder

Seasons
Each one in place
Revelations
Of earth's embrace
Soaring over land
And through space

Laughter
He lifts to the heavens
Like halos
On angels who beckon
With joy
From the flow
Of His serenity

Butterflies
Vibrant and floating
On wings
Meant for exploring
Glowing in hues
Animation knowing
His brilliance
The light that he pours
Across humanity
Through hearts who know Him

A breath of hope
Falls over the children
Who play together
Kissed by kind faith
Loving like the One
Who guides prayers
And praise
Colors us all
In hues of sweet grace

Tenderness
Brightens the way
Of compassion
Feelings in waves
Penetrating
Awakening beliefs
Needs, expressions
Of giving, generosity
Living together
As the children of God

Creativity
Lingers on the mind
Who knows
God's way and His timing
Are perfect
Perfectly fine
Flawless and faultless
Precisely precise

Know Him
And Know life
Is more than a blessing
It is the pathway
To heaven

Regina McIntosh.

Lockdown Languishing

By Rev. Linley Liersch [PPW MDSE & eLM]

Do you wake up most mornings feeling flat? Do you regularly struggle with motivation?

Have you revise your goals in the last two years? Do you struggle to remember the last time you felt joy?

Languishing is when life feels a bit flat, exhausted all the time and aimless. Not happy or sad, just blah feeling. We know that we have a roof over our heads, can walk outside safely. We may even be content, grateful and blessed. It is just that the pandemic has sucked all the joy out of life... having coffee with friends, catching up with family, vacations in beautiful remote locations and going to church.

Psychologist Adam Grant [New York Times] states "It is not burn out—we still had energy. It was not depression—we didn't feel hopeless. We felt somewhat joyless and aimless. It turns out there is a name for that languishing. Languishing is a sense of stagnation and emptiness. It feels like muddling through your day..." Grant quotes sociologist Corey Keyes [2021] the antithesis of flourishing is languishing.

Feeling Blah During the Pandemic? It's Called Languishing - The New York Times (nytimes.com)

Dr. Frank Chow Psychologistsays that we need to "Be aware of the strategies that boost our wellbeing." e.g. exercise a renewed sense of purpose. [Source Advertiser "Body and Soul" by Felicity Harley]

Here are some hints from Victorians:

- A welfare workplace in Melbourne gave its staff a mental health week this month. There was
 encouragement to have a home break with these instructions. Learn something new. Share something. Give
 something. Help someone.
- Christians know gratitude and wellbeing are linked. Work out what is brining you joy in lockdown and do
 more of it. Rev. Joan Wright Howie [UCA Minister, World Vision] recommends to combat stress 'Leisure and
 Pleasure' in large quantities to combat cortisol that builds up in your body from stress.
- Denise Bush [Craigieburn-Wallan UCA Chairperson] Walks her dog at 5 pm every evening and rings her daughter interstate who is also walking her dog. This family ritual has helped her survive lockdown.
- Brian Lauder [Macedon Ranges Partnership)] Spoke about the hardship of rural businesses going in and out
 of lockdown. Hiring, filling out employment contracts, only to close again a week later. Repeat. This time
 they will wait to find out if we are truly coming out of lockdown or not?
- [Unknown Ministry Agent] Holiday at home was still worthwhile I felt rejuvenated after it.
- Most Ministers miss out on all the long-weekends because we work Sundays. The Synod and eLM have given their personal 2 days mental health leave. Perhaps congregations could make similar allowances. If your stress is building up consider arranging your time for three days off in a row and take a mental health break.

Pray for Australian Roman Catholic Church Plenary Council 3rd—10th October



2021: UCA President Rev Sharon Hollis has shared a letter requesting congregations to join in prayer for God's Wisdom and openness to be with all the Roman Catholic bishops and lay leaders. Congregations and presbytery could gift as symbol of prayerful solidarity by sending a candle, card, video prayer to your local Roman Catholic congregations or **Diocese**.

Let us pray: Creator God, in your great love you have given us the gift of your Spirt. As the Roman Catholic Church in Australia enters this time of discernment, we pray that your Spirit would guide and encourage those involved in the Plenary Council. May we all stand together as we seek to be your people on the way of Jesus. We pray this through Christ Our Redeemer. **Amen**. [Rev. John Hughes]



All in this together



Mark 10.35-45

Two of his disciples, James and John, ask Jesus to put them in a place of higher authority than the others, in his heavenly kingdom. Jesus points out that to be with him in glory they must share in his suffering on earth. He then reprimands them for wanting preferential treatment: instead, they should live sacrificially for others, as he does.

Now read Mark 10.35-45 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

There are some basic problems with the request the brothers make. Why do they think they are more important? Don't they know that with authority comes responsibility and, in this case, suffering? Jesus isn't able to directly fulfil their request - he tells them they can achieve greatness by serving others. This is countercultural and can be difficult to hear: How does it make you feel?



Think through what your day will hold, and who you may speak to, or hear or see in any way. Think about who they are, not just their role as newsreader, postman, neighbour, but as individuals with value in God's eyes. As your day unfolds, offer each person who you hear and see to God, being thankful for their part in your life.

START Lear

October is Black History Month. Read one or two featured articles from the Black History Month website each day and learn how attitudes have changed over the decades. https://www.blackhistorymonth. org.uk/section/history-of-slavery/ There may be parts of the story which are new to you, some shocking, others encouraging. How do you feel about the progress your community has made

to recognise the equal importance of all its citizens?



Ask yourself: How do our circumstances affect challenges we may face together?



Bake some biscuits. But before you start, get all the ingredients together and think about what part they each play. Are all the ingredients equally important? Could you leave anything out and still get biscuits worth sharing? Even if you only need a small amount of one item, would it be missed if you didn't add it? Appreciate that many things have to come together to make recipe work. Enjoy your biscuits!



On your own or with others, imagine an organisation in which all involved in it are counted as equal, and how this would work. The official UK guidance on equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace refers to employees being able to raise issues with their managers. Any group, large or small, relies on someone taking responsibility, and others being willing to offer their services. From what you read of Jesus in the Bible, what was his role among the disciples with whom he had this conversation about serving others?



Jesus' teaching speaks first of being a servant and then of being a slave of all. In Jesus' time and in ours, being forced into slavery is not the same as choosing to serve. We don't have the same culture of servants today, thankfully, but we might go to a restaurant where we are served, or go to church for a service: in both cases, others are providing something to 'feed' us. Being a servant to others might involve a small act of thoughtfulness, or be on the scale of the efforts made by so many during the pandemic. What act of serving can you offer to someone today?

Children's Activities



ROOTS Activity sheet

17-23 October 2021



Mark 10.35-45

For Jesus, being the greatest means putting the needs of others before our own.



Jesus' disciples wanted to be powerful, he wanted them to serve others.



A serving chart: draw something you can do each day to serve others.

Monday	Friday	
Tuesday	Saturday	
Wednesday	Sunday	
Thursday		



Find the six differences between these two pictures.





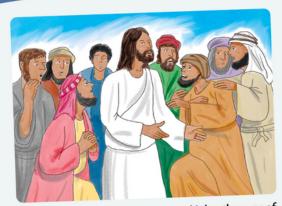


Work out the answers and fit them in the grid. Some letters have been included to help you.

- 1. What did James and John want
- 2. What cup did Jesus say the disciples would have to drink?
- 3. How did the other disciples feel when they heard about what James and John had asked?
- 4. What did Jesus say anyone had to become if they wanted to be
- 5. What do you have to be prepared to be if you want to come first?
- 6. What did Jesus say the Son of Man came to do?

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ne day, the disciples James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said, 'Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask.'

Jesus said, 'What do you want me to do?'

'When your reign comes,' they replied, 'will you make us the two most important people in your kingdom, one to sit at your right hand, and the other to sit at your left hand?'

Jesus shook his head. 'You have no idea what you are asking,' he said. 'Will you be able to drink the cup of suffering that I have to drink?'

'Yes, of course!' the brothers replied.

'Well then,' Jesus said, 'you will drink the same bitter cup as me, and suffer like me; but as for having the most important jobs, that's for God to decide.'

The other disciples heard about this conversation and were angry with James and John for daring to ask such a thing. Jesus called them together and said, 'Sometimes, when people have power, it goes to their head. But I want you to be different. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first must be prepared to be everyone else's slave. For even the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served, and to give up his life for many people.'

Mark 10.35-45

Did you know?

- To sit at the right or left hand of an important person made you important and recognised too.
- The Son of Man is a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself as fully human as well as being the Son of God.