



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH



31st October Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Love changes everything! - Mark 12:28-34

Some of you will be familiar with Andrew Llyod Webber's song -

*Love changes everything: Hands and faces, Earth and sky, Love
Love changes everything: How you live, and how you die, Love,*



I think we can agree with Andrew that love changes everything. But what sort of love, though? And love for what or from whom? From this week's Gospel reading, I think we can say the following: Love begins and ends with God and his love for us and creation (all of it, including but certainly not limited to humanity). Love is outward focused – towards God, yes, but also to all those whom God loves. Love includes us because we are loved by God.

In Jesus' answer to the scribe's question (as in the Shema prayer that Jesus quote), love begins with God. And the fullest expression of this love is in and through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

And so, it follows that because God loves us, it prompts a response from us. Why? Because that is the nature of such love - that in appreciation and thankfulness, we are compelled to do likewise. And so our response in love demands the whole person, all that we are and do – as in the words of the final verse of one of my favourite hymn by Isaac Watts 'When I survey the wondrous cross, On which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride: And the last verse of this hymn contains these words - Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. I wonder what does that look like in practice for us as a community?

Another word for community that we may not be very familiar with is KOINONIA. At its core, Koinonia is understood to be the outworking of a deep sense of love and commitment to God and each other.

At the heart of the Koinonia or fellowship, or its engine room, if you like, is a deep sense of love for God and each other. This life of Koinonia enables the cultivation of a sense of humility that seeks to honour and respect others. It is an all-embracing and welcoming community for all people. Koinonia actively seeks to lighten each other's load by shouldering one another's burden, not only in prayers but also in material blessings with those in need.

Being called to be in the Koinonia of love and commitment is all of us taking the saying of an anonymous saint seriously, "You cannot draw near to God if you are at a distance from each other."

As we embrace the newly found 'freedom' we now enjoy, let us continue to embody love and commitment in the life of the Koinonia of God. A ministry that is ever more important and needed in our time of uncertainty. My genuine encouragement for us all is - let us claim the gift of Koinonia by offering each other and the community God's love that is so amazing, so divine, demands our soul, our life, our all for his Love changes everything!

Rev Ikani



[Latest on our Sunday Worship Services - more details on page 4](#)

Sunday 31st October - 10.00 am Online worship

AN ISLAND LESSON

By Bill Pugh

We were volunteers at a children's home in Fiji just after one of the coups. It was a time of unrest and unemployment. Children in the home left for a variety of reasons needed lots of love and special care. It was a privilege to support wonderful and dedicated staff. Before returning to Australia we decided to have a week on one of those luxury islands.

On Sunday we wanted to go to church. There wasn't one there, but a lovely Fijian staff member invited us to go to her church on a nearby island. So we did, by boat. We were the only non-Fijians. We recognised many of the resort staff who lived there with their families. It was a wonderful service with magnificent singing. When it came to the offering, two lines formed and people gave their collection.

One line, we learned, was for the church and the other to support the many unemployed people. Most gave to both. For us, it was a salutary lesson on stewardship. Like the widow, those who had less gave much.

Reflection

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous, Teach me to serve you as you deserve, To gain and not to count the cost, To fight and not to heed the wounds, To toil and not to seek for rest, To labour and not to ask for reward, Save that of knowing I am doing your will.

St Ignatius Loyola

Bequest

Remember the Church in your will.

A bequest will help continue to work of the Church long after you're gone. There are many ways a bequest can help the work of the Church - whether for a specific cause that's dear to your heart, for a specific congregation or for the general purposes of the life of the Church.

Want to know more?

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:
www.victas.uca.org.au



Loris Barnard - Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Frank Barnard on the sudden loss of his dear wife Loris last Sunday. Loris was a long time member of the Evening Fellowship and a minute's silence was held for her by members last Wednesday. Please keep Frank and his family in your prayers as he manages this very difficult time. Please pray for comfort for them all.

Ida Little - Our loving prayers and sympathy to the family of Ida Little who passed away on 26th October at the age of 99 years and 2 months. A long Christian life.

Worship At Home

Acknowledgement of Country

We, the people of Belmont Uniting Church acknowledge the Wauthaurong Peoples, the first inhabitants of the land we live and worship since time beyond remembering. We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

Listen!

A personal prayer

Blessed are those who set their hearts on God and hold fast to his word. Blessed are those who are faithful in prayer, and whose songs are of praise. Blessed are those who listen to the teachings of Scripture and live them out. Blessed are we as we worship in Jesus' name – for he is here, he is among us. Amen.

Notes on the Bible readings

Mark 12.28-34 - Deuteronomy 6.1-9 - Hebrews 9.11-14

Jesus has now reached Jerusalem and has cleansed the Temple. The scribe is an interpreter and teacher of the Jewish Law; questioning and discussion were encouraged as an important part of the learning process. The scribe is seeking to engage with Jesus, not to trick him, which indicates that not all the religious authorities were against him. Jesus appears quite sympathetic towards this man and ultimately affirms his wisdom.

In Deuteronomy 6.5 Moses reminds the people of the great commandment they have been given before they enter the Promised Land. It is not just a rule for them, but one to be passed on to future generations. It is a law not merely to be obeyed but to be treasured as an important part of their daily lives.

Jesus invokes this passage from Deuteronomy and Leviticus 19.18 when answering the scribe. The first commandment is to love God with the entirety of your being: heart, soul, mind and strength. The second is to love your neighbour as yourself. These are not just spiritual requirements, but practical demands. Jesus sees them as the marks of true holiness: they will affect not only our attitude to God, but all our relationships and how we live in community.

Today's world can be very individualistic and the opportunities for sharing love are not always obvious. Wholehearted love for God translates into seeking opportunities to use our hearts, souls, minds and might to share that love with others.

A Prayer for Others

We pray for all who feel that no one listens to them: those who live on the streets and are passed by, day after day; those who try to speak out against injustice in places of corruption; those who are starving in places that no longer make the news; those who find it hard to express themselves; those who are different, and feel that their lives don't matter. Open our ears to hear their cries of the heart, and use us to meet their needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Personal Prayer

Loving God, help me draw closer to your word, that I may draw closer to others. Help me listen to your promptings in my heart, that I may serve others. Help me build a rhythm of prayer, that I may uphold others.

And help me to live out my days, and inspire others – in Jesus' name. Amen

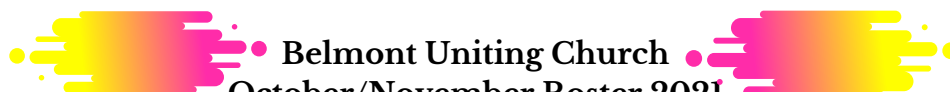
Live your faith

Write 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' on a card and place it somewhere where you will see it every day.

Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you see in this painting called 'agape'?
- ▶ Who is your neighbour?
- ▶ How did you last express love for a neighbour?





Belmont Uniting Church October/November Roster 2021

→ **ROSTER BELOW IS PENDING COVID ANNOUNCEMENTS** ←

ROSTER BELOW IS PENDING COVID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Oct 31	10.00am	TBA	J. Ferguson	H. McCann	C. Schaller	L. McCann	B. Jennings	L. Rankin
E. Wood								
Oct 31	Communion		Flowers		Morning Tea			
	N/A		B. Pullin		W. & F. Harper			
K. Haas								
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 7	10.00am	Rev Ikani	D. Stephens	N. Phillips	R. Bunting	R. Ferguson	D. Zucarro	L. Rankin
B. Couper								
Nov 7	Communion		Flowers		Morning Tea			
	L. Moss, R. Pearson		A. Ingles		M. & M. Vaitohi			
	B. & S. Jennings				S. Viatothi			
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
Nov 14	10.00am	TBA	J. Jeffers	L. Yates	L. Jackson	R. Ferguson	B. Jones	L. Rankin
A. Merritt								
Nov 14	Communion		Flowers		Morning Tea			
	N/A		E. Wood		R. & J. Ferguson			

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 God, we pray that You will draw close to people who are nearing the end of their life's journey; surround them with Your loving arms and may they know Your comfort and peace. May the members of their family be aware of Your love and grace at this time.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for our minister, the Rev. Ikani, his wife, Moana, and their children. Bless them all as they serve You in the Belmont community. Encourage them in all aspects of their ministry as they seek to witness to others day by day.

Loving God, teach us how to live with gratitude even when the going gets tough.

May we never forget that You are with us despite facing the complexities of life. Help us to remember the words from Psalm 100: "For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation."

Peter Woods

Lectionary Readings

Oct 31 - Pentecost 23	Nov 1 - All Saints Day	Nov 7 - Pentecost 24	Nov 14 - Pentecost 25
Ru 1: 1 - 18	Is 25: 6 - 9	Ru 3: 1 - 5, 4: 13 - 17	1 Sm 1: 4 - 20
Psalms 146	Psalms 24	Psalms 127	1 Sm 2: 1 - 10
Heb 9: 11- 14	Rev 21: 1- 6a	Heb 9: 24- 28	Heb 10: 11- 14, (15 - 18)
Mark 12: 28 - 34	Jn 11: 32 - 44	Mk 12: 38 - 44	Mk 13: 1 - 8

Hope Is The Thing With Feathers

"Hope" is the thing with feathers - And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard - I've heard it in the chilliest land -
That perches in the soul - And sore must be the storm - And on the strangest Sea -
And sings the tune without the words - That could abash the little Bird Yet - never - in Extremity,
And never stops - at all - That kept so many warm - It asked a crumb - of me.

By Emily Dickinson

There will be an online worship service for this Sunday October 31st. 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=Ky85NGtwnbZqblh2YzFGNDdDZEMlQT09>
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.

OCTOBER IS BUSHIKORI CHRISTIAN CENTRE & UNITING BARWON MONTH

Throughout October we hope you have been able to place a donation in your collection jar when you enjoyed your first tea or coffee for the day. We are so pleased that Members of St John's Anglican Church, Highton have joined us for this fundraiser.



DRIVE THROUGH VIRTUAL COFFEE EVENT DETAILS

You are invited to come to the Belmont Uniting Church in your car on Saturday 6th November between 10 and 11am and drive through the Church driveway, be greeted with a friendly smile (social distancing) and leave your "Coffee" donation for Bushikori.



If it is easier for you to write a cheque for your donation please make your cheque payable to "Bushikori Christian Centre". Those who require a tax receipt please place your donation in a named envelope and write "receipt required" on the envelope. For those who are unable to come to the Church on that day you can make a direct deposit to Bushikori's Account BSB 603858 Acc.

No. 10077253 and then please send an email to sponsorship@bushikori.org.au with details of your deposit. For those needing assistance with delivering your donation to Church please contact Bill & Sue Jennings 0429544436 or Rosslyn Buckwell 0407326023.

BUC members are also invited to bring non-perishable food items for Uniting Barwon. We have been unable to bring such items to Church services for quite some time due to restrictions. These will be collected by Rosslyn Buckwell.

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.

There will also be a plant stall with tomato seedlings, fuchsias and other plants for sale.



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).

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Changes to COVID-19 restrictions

You will be aware of the changes to restrictions that are occurring, which are prompted by vaccination targets being met.

The changes mean that we will soon be able to meet together in worship, and that other church activities will be able to start up again. We are hoping to return to in-person worship on November 7.

The number of people who may attend religious gatherings in any part of Victoria depends on whether everyone present is fully vaccinated.

Several things need to happen for us to return to in-person worship:

1. Anyone attending a worship service needs to carry and show their vaccination certificate or exemption certificate. This can be held on your phone, or you can use a paper certificate. You will also need to scan in using the QR Code.
2. Numbers of people allowed in our church is currently limited to 90 fully vaccinated persons (including anyone with a medical exemption)
3. We are exploring options for in-person worship for people who are not vaccinated. These might include live broadcasting our church service, or offering a second service on a Sunday. The current restrictions state that only 30 people are permitted to attend a religious service if anyone present is unvaccinated.
4. If you perform any kind of volunteer work for the congregation, you must provide evidence of double-vaccination or a medical exemption. This includes: greeters, ushers, organists, readers, gardeners, morning tea servers, flower arrangers, office bearers and leaders of groups and children's activities, and Church Council members. This is because all of our church volunteers are considered to be "authorised workers".

What to do:

If you are a volunteer – please send the following information to Ray Ferguson or Glen Coomber as soon as possible: Immunisation Certificate number ("Document Number"), date of 2nd immunisation, and type of vaccine received.

[someone/insert name here] will be at the church on [date] at [time] to receive this information if you are unable to email it.

If you are planning to attend worship – link your digital certificate to your Services Victoria app or Medicate Express app on your mobile phone. If you need a paper certificate, you can print one from your Medicare online account through myGov; you can contact the clinic where you were immunised and request a copy, or you can contact the Australian Immunisations Register on 1800 653 809 (Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm). If you have a medical exemption, you will need to bring this with you to worship.

If you have chosen not to be vaccinated, or are unable to be fully vaccinated at this time, please speak with Ikani as it will assist us in ensuring that everyone participate in worship. This information will be treated in confidence.

More information:

Ray Ferguson / 0423922112 / rayjulie@internode.on.net
Glen Coomber / 0408175984 / glengeel@yahoo.com.au

COVID-19 VICTORIA FAQs

METRO MELBOURNE AND REGIONAL VICTORIA | OCT 28, 2021



As Victoria reaches the 80% fully vaccinated target, restrictions will ease from 6pm Friday October 29 when Regional Vic and Metro Melbourne will be under the same COVID restrictions.

The following will apply across all Victoria as of 6pm Oct 29, 2021. Changed restrictions shown in RED.

- **Leaving Home** – There are no longer any restrictions on leaving home.
- **Intrastate Travel** – There are no longer any restrictions on travel within Victoria, including travel between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria.
- **Masks (unless an exemption applies)** – Wearing face masks is now only mandatory in indoor settings. Masks must be carried at all times outside the home, but are no longer required to be worn outdoors except where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Visitors to the home** – up to 10 people per day, including dependants, may visit at home.
- **Public outdoor gatherings** – up to 30 people may gather outdoors. This does not include back yards or other outdoor areas of a private residence.
- **Religious gatherings and ceremonies (incl Weddings and Funerals)**
 - **If all attendees are fully vaccinated**, indoor gatherings are subject to a density quotient of one person per 4 square metres (no number caps). Up to 500 people may gather outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2 square metres.
 - **If vaccination status not known for all attendees**, up to 30 people may attend subject to density quotient of one person per 4sqm.
 - **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the fully vaccinated, that all attendees over 16 have proof they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt. (see p4)
- **Work** – Work from home if you can, but you can go to work if fully vaccinated.
 - If you are not fully vaccinated, you can only attend a workplace other than your own home providing your work function is on the Authorised Worker list, providing you have had your first dose vaccination, and you have provided evidence of your vaccination status to the workplace.
 - By November 26 all workers will be required to be fully vaccinated and to have provided evidence in order to attend any workplace other than their own home.
 - The above requirements apply to paid and unpaid (volunteer) work.
 - **Permitted Worker Permits are no longer required (incl Metro Melbourne).**
- **Schools** – May open full time for all students from Monday November 1. Face masks must be worn indoors by year 2-6 students and by all students aged 12+, unless a lawful exemption applies.
- **Adult/Higher Education** – may resume for the fully vaccinated. Density limits N/A.
- **Childcare and Early Learning** – Open
- **Pubs/Restaurants/Cafes** – open to the fully vaccinated for indoor seated service with a density quotient of one person per 4 sqm, and for non-seated service up to 500 fully vaccinated people outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2sqm.
- **Hairdressing & Beauty Services** – Open for fully vaccinated people
- **Community Facilities may open if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, there is no indoor cap other than the density quotient of one person per 4sqm. Outdoors up to 500 people with a density quotient of one person per 2sqm. **Essential support is permitted** for groups of up to 10 people (Vaccination status does not apply).
- **Hospital Visitors:**
 - Two visitors at one time (a group may exceed the "two visitors at a time" rule if dependents of a visitor are in the group and care for the dependents cannot be arranged).
 - Do not have to be from the same household.
 - No time limits.
 - No more than two visitors per day. (No daily visitor limit for end-of-life or life-threatening illness.)
 - All visitors are required to wear face masks.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Continued P2

MULTI-LINGUAL RESOURCES

Where can I find the current government guidelines in other languages?

Victorian Multi-cultural Commission Coronavirus (COVID-19): In-language advice and information at <https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-language-advice-and-information>.

Ethnolink have information available in 51 languages at: <http://www.ethnolink.com.au/covid-%2019-coronavirus-translated-resources/>

The Department of Home Affairs has extensive multi-lingual resources available at: <https://Covid19inlanguage.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

The Victorian Multicultural Commission have release multi-lingual resources including:

- Audio messages: <https://cloud.think-hq.com.au/s/m9SX3ntGGqr7Sai>
- Posters (JPG / PDF): <https://cloud.think-hq.com.au/s/m9SX3ntGGqr7Sai>
- Social Media banners: <https://cloud.think-hq.com.au/s/m9SX3ntGGqr7Sai>

GATHERINGS & CHURCH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

What face-to-face gatherings are permitted at church?

Restrictions easing while there are still COVID-19 cases within the community is something we have not faced previously in Victoria. With an increased likelihood that at some stage an attendee at a gathering will be COVID positive, there are a number of considerations for all Church Councils:

- Have you reviewed and updated your [COVIDSafe Plan?](#)
- Is all COVID signage up-to-date?
- Will your gatherings be for the fully vaccinated? How will your decision be managed and communicated?
- Have you downloaded the updated [COVID Cleaning Guide](#), and considered your cleaning practices or how to deep clean if a Covid-positive person attended?

WORSHIP SERVICES

Religious gatherings and ceremonies

- **if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, the number of people who may attend is based on a density quotient of one person per 4 sqm indoors. Up to 500 people may attend outdoors with a density quotient of one person per 2 sqm
- **If the vaccination status of all attendees is not known**, up to 30 people may attend, with a density quotient of one person per 4sqm.
- **COVID check-in marshals** must ensure all attendees check-in and, if it is a service for the fully vaccinated, that all attendees over 16 have proof they are fully vaccinated or medically exempt. (see p4)

As of 28/10/2021

Do face masks have to be worn at all times during worship?

Yes. Masks are currently mandatory in all settings, apart from at home, unless an individual has a valid reason for not wearing one. Ministers or other faith leaders may remove their masks whilst leading worship, as teaching/broadcasting/public speaking are valid exceptions.

Can we gather for morning tea afterwards?

Yes, providing all attendees are fully vaccinated and density quotients are observed. All food and drink should be served, rather than available buffet style.

As of 28/10/2021

Can we sing?

Singing is permitted, but facemasks must be worn at all times.

As of 09/08/2021

Weddings

- **if all attendees are fully vaccinated**, the number of people who may attend an indoor wedding is determined by the density quotient of one person per 4sqm. Up to 500 people may attend an outdoor wedding subject to 1 person per 2sqm density.
- **If the vaccination status of all attendees is not known**, a cap of 30 people per wedding plus the marrying couple and those necessary to conduct the wedding. Children aged under 12 months are not included in the cap. A density quotient of one person per 4sqm applies.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Love is...

Mark 12.28-34

After Jesus gets the better of the various factions who have tried to trick him on points of law, a scribe asks a more fundamental question: Which is the most important law? Jesus cites the words of the Jewish Shema (from Deuteronomy 6.4-5) as being the encapsulation of all the laws.

Now read Mark 12.28-34 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

The scribe is reassured that Jesus gives the 'right' answer and echoes the importance of loving God and loving others. He recognises that these are the most important aspects of his faith. How might you complete the sentence, 'Love is...?'



On this wall in Montmartre, 'I love you' is written in 250 different languages.
Ask yourself: How would you illustrate a commitment to love others?



Since the 1970s there has been a continuous supply of 'Love is ...' cartoons published in a newspaper. The most well-known are about love between a couple. But love is bigger than that. Sketch some situations in which love makes a difference in everyday life, or in global issues.



It is hard to explain what 'love is' in words. We can't see it, but there are ways to show it. On a day of suitable weather this week, go for a walk in an open space, woodland or park. Breathe in the smells of autumn and enjoy the crunch of leaves. If possible, spend time gathering a natural bouquet from the autumn foliage, or collect coloured leaves to make a collage. Give your offering to someone who wasn't able to go on your walk, as a sign of love.

Love
NOT
LAW

If there was a law that stated that everyone should love eating tripe and sprouts, would that change how everyone felt about these foods? Many of us would be guilty of breaking that law and would feel justified in doing so. Yet a law against committing murder seems reasonable. On your own, or with others, look again at God's 10 laws given in Exodus 20 and at the two that Jesus gives in Mark 12. Do they cover every situation in today's world? Are there grey areas where the law is not the answer? Do we need love as well?



Listen to or read the day's headlines, the big stories and perhaps some more local news. In what ways is love shown in the event being reported? If the answer is not very positive, look at the events and characters involved in the story. What could have been different, if someone had chosen to act out of love for God or for others? Can you rewrite a headline to reflect how love would have made a difference to the outcome? In your own day, think about the decisions you make and the words you use, to see if you too can improve the day by adding a bit of love to it.

LOVE
GOD

On the last day of October there are events and 'celebrations' of Halloween. In its present form, it has become very commercialised and macabre. Our Christian faith is centred on life after death promised by the gift of resurrection through Jesus – that is something to be celebrated. Create a poster to go in your window tonight that focuses on light, life in this world and the next, the love of God. If you are expecting Trick or Treat visitors tonight, make up a small pack of treats, along with a simple card that expresses God's love.

Children's Activities

31 October – 6 November 2021

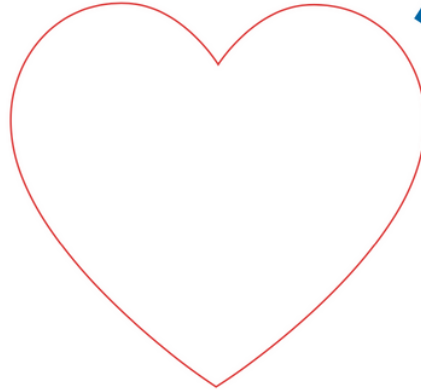


Mark 12.28-34

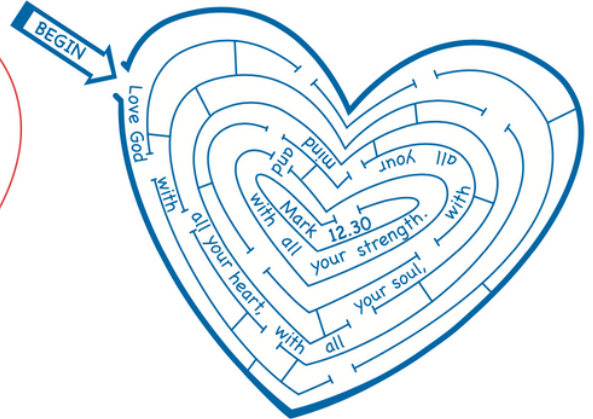
Jesus tells us that the most important thing we can do is to love God, and to love others.



Fill the heart with drawings of things/people that you love.



Follow the maze to make the sentences.



See how many words you can add to complete this sentence, e.g. patient, kind.



The most important thing we can learn and do.

_____. Mark 12.30

One day, one of the scribes came to Jesus with a question. 'Out of all the commandments, which one is the most important?' Jesus replied, 'It is this: "You must love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." The second most important one is this: "You must love your neighbours – other people – just as much as you love yourself."

The scribe said to him, 'Well said, Teacher; I agree. To love God with all your heart, all your understanding, and all your strength, and to love others as yourself – this is far more important than any other gift that can ever be given to God.'

Seeing how wisely the scribe had spoken, Jesus said to him, 'You are very close to God's kingdom.'

After that, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

Mark 12.28-34



Did you know?

- The soul is the essence of you or your spirit.
- God's kingdom is not a physical place, but it describes when people recognise God is in charge.