



Keeping connected — between members of Gloucester Uniting Church on a weekly basis

Covid-19 crisis *Messenger*

Then I heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?" I answered, "I will go, send me!"

Zoom together for morning tea

Now that the Church has a corporate licence for Zoom we are no longer limited to a 40 minute meeting, says our Church Elders Chairperson John Williamson.

Because we do not have a resident minister, the Zoom inter-active meeting is for the morning tea only. Church services are available at various sites,

Below are the **NEW** details for our Morning Tea catch-up. he said.

For those that do not have internet there is a phone option. All you do is dial the number listed below, enter the Meeting ID and follow the prompts.

Topic: Church Morning Tea

Time: May 10, 2020 10:30 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Every week on Sun, until Jun 21, 2020, 7 occurrence (s)

May 10, 2020 10:30 AM

May 17, 2020 10:30 AM

May 24, 2020 10:30 AM

May 31, 2020 10:30 AM

Jun 7, 2020 10:30 AM

Jun 14, 2020 10:30 AM

Jun 21, 2020 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93949445759>

Meeting ID: 939 4944 5759

Dial by telephone

Ph : 8015 6011

Meeting ID: 939 4944 5759

Presbytery Newsletter

There's more news about what's happening in the Presbytery on our website where you'll find Rev John Thornton's weekly newsletter."

Sunday's reflections, prepared by Rev Lindsay Sheppard, will be sent as a separate email

Some snippets of news from our church people:

Congratulations to Fay de Witte who has another great grandson, son of Nikolaus and Serenade, grandson of Jeffrey.

Hilary has said that Norma Wilson phoned to express her appreciation for the weekly communications from the church. She especially wanted to say how she enjoys the reflections and wants to thank the Church Council for organising it all and the people who deliver them each week. I think all our recipients would join her in thanking Peter and Shirley and Sue for doing this so faithfully each week.

Hilary has a few extra copies of 'With Love to the World'. If you'd like one, please let her know and she'll organise to drop one off. 6558 7436.

Happy Birthday to Roger Thomas over in Taree for 6th May.

Sue Thomas has a list of Fellowship birthdays. If you would like to add yours, or do someone else in, please let her know.

Several people are available to run errands, do shopping,

change light bulbs , etc. as needed. Just let Sue Thomas know and she can arrange for it to happen. Ring 6558 4132

The countries for prayer this Sunday from the World Council of Churches list are the peoples of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. Look them up in an atlas or Google and you will better understand their situation. We know more about the leprosy problem in Nepal through Colin and Sally Martin.

Julie Marchant asks if anyone has had dealings with Bitcoin? She is looking into it and have noticed that Bill Gates, Dick Smith and Richard Branson have dealings with it. As I am a very cautious person regarding matters like this I would like feed back from anyone who has some advice to give.

This is the place to advertise for free spare flower and vegie plants, or any surfeit of vegetables or flower bulbs you want to give away. Give Peter Hazell a ring on 0400 489 265.

GLOUCESTER UNITING CHURCH

**Ministers: Every member of the congregation
Phone Secretary Kerry Chisholm 6558 4206**

Project Reconnect

The sermons from Project Reconnect are now available free of charge on their Facebook page or website each week. Just go to projectreconnect.uca.org.au and click on "Sunday Messages for the COVID 19 Emergency" and you can view them.



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Then I heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?" I answered, "I will go, send me!"

Lockdown

Rev Dr John Hoskin shares with us about a Brother Richard Hendrick, a Capuchin Franciscan living in Ireland, who has penned a touching poem about coronavirus.

Brother Richard is a priest-friar of the Irish branch of the Capuchin Franciscan Order.

For over 20 years he has worked to bring the insights of the Christian contemplative tradition to greater public awareness, particularly with reference to modern mindfulness theory.

He served as director of youth ministry for the Irish Capuchins for over ten years and has worked extensively at both secondary and third level as a retreat-giver and chaplain.

He is one of the core developers of the Shekinah Youth Retreat Ministry Training Programme. He has also worked in hospital and prison relief chaplaincy roles and in parish work and was head of chaplaincy in UCC for three years.

Isolation

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues,

Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.



Allan and Margaret Cornish with Shirley Hazell attending to the out-of-control gardens at your church this week.

“Cafe Calling”

Our church has decided that it would be good to catch up with members and friends in isolation who may appreciate a knock on the door and a “how are you going?”

We thought we’d like to take some delicious home-made biscuits with us.

So we’re planning to contact our older members and friends, including those who come to Cafe on Cowper, to see whether they would like a visit on a Thursday once a fortnight (starting May 14) while abiding by the social distancing rules.

Barbara Reichert has agreed to organise the home-cooked biscuits and to contact people in the catering team who might like to help out. If others would also like to help with cooking biscuits you can call Barbara on 0407 936 515.

Jeff Kite is co-ordinating the deliveries, so if you’d like to help out you can call him on 9558 7436.

Twins Elsie Blake of Taree and Eric Isaac of Gloucester celebrate their 80th birthday Friday 8th May. Their sister is Shirley Hazell.

Shirley Hazell is still trying to give away crocus plants, bulbs and all. She will deliver to staying-at-home people by ringing 0400 489 265 or pick up from 87 Barrington Street.

Lectionary readings for May 10: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5; 1 Peter 2:2-10; and John 14:1-14.