



# Newsletter

Ocean Grove,  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Sunday April 19th 2020

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas  
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**Vestry hours Thursday 12noon—2.00pm**

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Prayer is a communication between you and God.  
Prayer is talking and listening to God.  
Prayer is the gateway to God's presence.  
Prayer opens your spiritual eyes.  
Prayer makes you to be sensitive.  
Prayer is to present your matter to God.

Why do we need to pray?

To come to know God and build a relationship with God;  
To ask for strength, healing, or to make requests or petitions;  
To come to understand God's will for us; and because we are  
encouraged to do so.

## PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

- For rural Congregations already feeling isolated
- For people in palliative care and their families as they prepare for their final days.
- For families of people in nursing homes where lockdown rules are in place.
- For ministers and Church Councils struggling with the changes that are happening.
- Pray that God will be with us all in this time of stress and Uncertainty.
- For all members of the Congregation that they know they are not alone.
- For health workers of all types as they work tirelessly to ensure that we are all safe.

### CHURCH CLOSED

Due to restrictions imposed by the government services of worship can longer happen in the Ocean Grove Uniting Church.

This does not mean that you have to miss out on worship though. The Reverend Bob Thomas is posting his sermons and a liturgy for worship on the website. Please see the front of the newsletter for the address.

This will enable you and your family to worship in the comfort of your own home.

Just a reminder:

The weekly Lectionary Readings are printed on your UCA 2020 Calendar for your convenience.

### Key verse for this week

"Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge"  
Psalm 16: 1

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Even though the church is closed for worship, there are still expenses that need to be paid.

You can make your contribution to the income of the church in a variety of ways

You may like to send a cheque to PO Box 393 Ocean Grove

Make a deposit in our bank account at the Commonwealth bank

Account Name Ocean Grove Uniting Church Council

BSB number 063 834

Account number 1005 1143

Notarisation: your surname and/or envelope number

This can be done either by direct debit or physically going into the bank and giving the teller the above details.

Set up a Direct Debit payment via Synod on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Please call Synod on 951 5200 for advice.

## **PRAYER CONTACT**

If you would like our prayer team to pray for you or others (with their permission, then please call Robin Munro on 4202 0323

Call Robin also if you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain.

At this time, prayer is an important part of our Christian life.

Do you know how Barry Calcutt is getting his exercise these days?

Unable to answer the question!  
He is working on the gardens around the new carpark.

Moving rocks, digging holes, running from garden shed to garden beds and in between times chatting to people (at a safe distance) who walk through our church grounds.

If you are also gardening and finding that you have plants or shrubs that you do not need then please ring Barry on 5250 3789 after 6.00pm and see if he can use them.

There is a lot of garden space to fill and Barry has a plan so is looking for specific colours of plants and types.

If you would like to make a monetary donation for Barry to use to buy new plants that is also an acceptable way for us all to contribute to the gardens.

By the time we are able to return to church the gardens will be looking splendid and then it is a certainty that Barry will need help with watering.

So watch this space for updates!

Hi, Ocean Grove,

We would just like to say, please stay safe from the Coronavirus. We are praying for everyone that coronavirus doesn't affect anybody, everybody is safe and healthy. We are self-isolating, and our school has closed down. Even my Dad's church has closed down. We hope you are all safe and healthy.

We have been praying for your Congregation, and everyone during this pandemic stage. We pray that people in the community don't hoard things they don't need, and it is left for people that are in need and vulnerable.

We pray that everyone has everything they need, and is safe.

On behalf of the Park Family

Helen Park.

#### ADDITIONS TO YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

Robyn Grossman  
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Megan Smith  
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#### SHARING TIME

Seeing that we are not able to share any exciting news with each other during a Sunday morning, maybe you would like to send it to the church office by 8.30am on Friday mornings so that it can be published in the weekly newsletter.

This means we will all stay in contact and beware of those important birthdays, anniversaries etc. as well as good news that has happened during the week.