



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday May 24th 2020

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas
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Prayer in the time of Coronavirus.

God of love, God of grace, God of surprises,
We are grateful for the moments of love and community we share.
We know you are with us. We know the promise we have in you. Yet we
live with our hurt in the present and uncertainty in the time ahead, and
wonder what the future holds for us and our communities.
We pour out our hearts and souls to you.....and pray:
For your world, our peoples and all who inhabit the face of the earth;
For those who are grieving for loss of loved ones,
For those who fear for their safety,
For those who feel most isolated and alone;

For those who give of themselves to support others:
Health care workers, cleaners, teachers, truck drivers and delivery
personnel, pharmacists, grocery sale assistants, phone counsellors,
personal care assistants, those who prepare meals for emergency food
relief.....bring your comfort, hope, strength, and healing love.

We pray for our communities of faith, that we may be beacons of hope-
fulness, of promise, of pace with each other, and of inclusive love for
neighbour.

We pray in the hope we know in Jesus, in whom we see and know the
fullness of the grace and love of God.

Amen.

Denise Liersch

Moderator, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania 14th May 2020

CHURCH CLOSED

This does not mean that you have to miss out on worship though.

The Reverend Bob Thomas is posting the complete service on the **website** which includes You Tube clips of the hymns, and there is a hard copy of the service that you can download if you would prefer to read the litany for worship.

And do not forget that each week you can join in worship through **zoom**.

If you would like to use zoom but are not sure of what it is or how it works please contact **Geoff Naylor** via email **drgeoffnaylor@gmail.com** for **help**.

Key verse for this week

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

John 17: 3

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

An Interesting statistic!

Last April (2019) our income was \$12,384.99.

This April it was \$3,366.00

A difference of \$5,652.99

If you would like to help with boosting the income for the church, please call Lesley Pope (Treasurer) on 0419 384 192.

Uniting Barwon Emergency Relief is open!

**They offer a variety of support and can be contacted on
Grovedale 4210 1100, Norlane 5278 8492 and
Winchelsea 0419 535 490**

JIM Group News

An email was received from Avaaz, a highly respected International Aid Agency. This was to alert supporters of the crisis in the world today requesting donations to support aid workers and also the provision of food.

"The U.N. is warning the world that it is on the brink of a famine of Biblical proportions with a quarter of a billion people staring starvation in the face."

This is besides the effect of the Covid-19. we decided to place this article in the newsletter realising everyone is not in a position to donate money or may have already contributed.

We do ask you to pray for the world situation at the present time.

Joan Calcutt, Yvonne Hargrave, Robin Munro, Lyn Mulligan, Carol Naylor, Pat Reid.

- Hunger, not disease, could emerge as the biggest killer in this crisis. All over the world, families are struggling to feed their children—not just in the poorest countries, but places like South Africa, India and Brazil!
- We would like to scale up a massive feeding programme to tens of thousands of hungry families in India and Pakistan; support farmers growing food in east Africa as they fight both the pandemic and a giant locust invasion.
- Be able to supply thousands of Rohingya refugees crammed into crowded camps with masks, soap and hand sanitiser; fund urgently needed supplies for heroic medics working in conflict zones like DRC, Yemen and Syria.
- \$8 feeds 50 people and \$80 feeds 500 people. These costs are estimates from Avaaz partners on the ground. They are based on the costs of providing each person with one meal, and include essential foods, like rice, lentils, oil and salt.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.avaaz@avaaz.org

Virtual Reconciliation in the Park 2020

"In this together"

27th May—3rd June

Online event

www.facebook.com/recinthepark/

[//djillong.net.au/virtual-reconciliation-in-the-park-2020.html](http://djillong.net.au/virtual-reconciliation-in-the-park-2020.html)

Featuring—Welcome to country, local performers, dilly bag making, native food plants, Johnny cake making, information about National reconciliation Week and much more.

NEW DIRECTORY COMING OUT SOON

Yes it is now another 2 years since the last directory was printed and so a new copy is in the pipeline.

If you have changed any contact details lately please email the new ones to the church office as soon as possible.

We will not be taking new photos for this edition so don't worry you will all look as good as you did two years ago!

I can't wait!

For weeks I have heard people saying "I just can't wait for things to be back to normal." I remember even saying that more than a few times myself. But as I've thought about our current situation I have realised how much I don't want things to go back to the way they were. Here are a few of my reasons.

- ❖ I hope that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their presence and embrace.
- ❖ I hope that when school resumes and you are dropping your kids off, you take the time to thank the staff for their amazing gift that they give to your family.
- ❖ I hope that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and be more appreciative of the gift of community.
- ❖ I hope that when I am at the supermarket that I take a moment to acknowledge the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.
- ❖ I hope that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the a car and visit a friend, go to the beach, a restaurant or a movie etc.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I hope and pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past weeks and create a new normal.

My goal is to appreciate more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily over looked just a few weeks ago. If someone tells you they love you, take it to heart!

Anonymous