



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday August 30th 2020

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas
PO Box 176 Drysdale Vic. 3222
(M) 0414 266 645 Email: bobuc3@bigpond.com
Vestry hours Thursday 12noon—2.00pm

Office phone 5256 2477
Email: oguc107@gmail.com
Postal Address: PO Box 393 Ocean Vic. 3226
Website: www.oceangrove.unitingchurch.org.au

ACT FOR PEACE RATION CHALLENGE 2020

The covid-19 has impacted on many people in our world and help is desperately needed for AFP as well as partner charities trying to support refugees in the crowded camps to have a chance to stay safe and receive food and hygiene kits medical support.

AFP are again asking for people to spread the word by taking part in the 2020 Ration Challenge in September.

Joan Calcutt has offered to participate in this challenge with encouragement from Lyn Mulligan.

This involves one week only eating rations that are provided for Syrian refugees in camps in Jordan. Hopefully participants, like Joan will be sponsored by family, friends and people who would be happy to help this worthy cause to show that we care.

If anyone would like to join Joan and take the challenge too, she would be delighted to have a mate.

If you feel you would like to sponsor Joan, this can be done through Joan's page on the AFP Ration Challenge website.

Thank you all. We pray for your good health, that of your families and hope that this crisis will be over soon.

actforpeace.rationchallenge.org.au/joan-calcutt

A Property Update for the Ocean Grove Congregation
"covid -19 times"

Garden:

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Barry Calcutt and his "staff" (Peter Dickson, David Reid and Norm Elliott) the gardens around the church are looking terrific. The work done around the new carpark is going to present our place of worship and outreach as welcoming and restful. Spring growth should be exciting to see. Well done team!

Maintenance:

The continuous hot water system in the kitchen has been replaced (it lasted 3 months beyond its warranty!). The new unit is currently switched off as there is very little use at present. If needed, it will take about 20 minutes to heat up, but please remember to turn it off after use. If only making one or two cups there is an electric jug in the kitchen that can be used.

Heaters in the hall and the dove have been cleaned and serviced and the heater in the church foyer has had the fan replaced as well as being serviced.

Painting of the lych-gate and power washing of the south wall was completed earlier in the year. Other painting will be on the agenda in 2021/2022.

Tree trimming and down pipe repairs:

Overhanging branches along the south side of the church and the east end have been taken back to be clear of the spouts. Some minor repairs of the spouting and external roof near the east vestry were completed earlier in covid-19 times.

Carpark entry and street parking:

Neil Derrick is working with Council (and they have been!) to provide a solution to identifying clearly parking and carpark entry.

Works to be tackled shortly (when we can see our way clear financially) includes repairs to barge boards and repairs to the south and bell towers.

Meanwhile we continue to meet via zoom for worship and a chat. Bob and Dianne are doing a great job at keeping us connected.

Thank you

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
By The Reverend Fiona Bottcher.

Our reaction to the first lockdown was almost frenetic as we grasped the novelty of isolation and how we would best use our time. We would come out of it new, transformed. This time it's different. This time there's no real sense of an end or of a better future. My advice is this:

Weep.

The grief of this lockdown has crept in like a thick invisible fog, swirling around our feet and knees. Our bodies feel heavy as we push against it. Processing grief goes beyond listing our losses, we need to stand in the wind-torn holes in our hearts and feel it.

Weeping is a kind of emptying. It allows us to give form to our loss, to cradle it in our arms and to name it.

And what then? Well, then we dance! Because there is "a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3: 4) and where there was death there is new life—we know this, as Christians it's etched into our hearts. Henri Nouwen reminds us that. "often our grief allows us to choreograph our dance while our dance creates the space for our grief." so let us weep and let us dance my friends!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH
VIA ZOOM

Please make sure that you keep checking your emails and the website for further details.

If you have any items for discussion please contact
David Runia (Congregational Chairperson)
on (H) 4201 5056
(M) 0419 419 766
(Email) dtrunia@gmail.com

Prayer:
Accepting
May we accept the people we are
May we become who you call us to be
May we follow together in the way you lead
May we bear each other's burdens with patience and grace
May we extend to all human kindness
May we love for that is your way
Just as you showed us as the Christ
Amen.

Photographers across the Presbytery

We are building a new Port Philip West Presbytery website and would love you to donate photos of your area. For example local church street front, Op- Shop, Congregational life, mission activities etc.

Contact Linley on 0408 169 882 for more details

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Next week, as we approach the eve of Spring, Christians and all people of faith are invited to unite in prayer for our world.

As the last light of the last day of winter fades on Monday August 31st, you are invited to light a candle, stand in your garden, on your balcony or in your lounge-room and spend some time in silence and prayer to remember all those who have lost their lives to covid-19 or to violence this year.

As the first night of Spring begins, let us look to the future with prayer and hope.

NEEDED KNITTING WOOL.

Donations of wool are needed to help refugee women remain positive in these lockdown conditions.

If you have any wool of any sort and would like to see it being used then please call Lyn Mulligan (5255 2638).

The wool will be distributed by Cathie Bond who is still in contact with these ladies.