



# Newsletter

Ocean Grove,  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Sunday October 25th 2020

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

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## LEARNING TO LISTEN

How well do you listen to another person? Are you a good communicator? Most people would answer very well and yes to these questions. After all, listening and communication are easy, right? We all do them both every day. As long as you keep nodding don't interrupt, and can repeat what the other person said, you're a good listener...right? Well not exactly.

Listening involves attention, being present, and hospitality, and it is a component of devotion, nurturing, and wonder.

Listening is our bridge to the wisdom of sacred texts and spiritual teachers. It is an essential part of the discernment process whereby we identify God's messages for us. Have you been taking the time to listen for that small voice during these uncertain times? Doing faith at home is so important for each of us. It is not just about worship with the gathered group, we are responsible for our own faith development. What are you doing about your relationship with God @ home? How are you listening and communicating with Jesus?

Listening enables us to tune in to others and our inner voices of intuition and conscience. It is how we know we are part of the natural, technological, and media worlds all around us.

There is probably no greater gift that we can give our friends, family and even strangers than to truly listen to them. The attitude of selflessness that is involved in truly listening leads to a deepening of relationships and this kind of communication is just so important within our churches and ministry contexts. Previously we talked about mission and the best and first step for any Christian mission is to listen well.

An inability or unwillingness to listen is a symptom of self-centeredness. It signals that we are shut up in ourselves, not interested in participating in what is going on around us. It can also indicate an obliviousness to our best interests which may be trying to make themselves known through our inner voices.

Let us all try to be truly present to our God, others and ourselves by listening intentionally. Don't be distracted by our own plans, assumptions, voices, or need to respond. Experience the deep communion that is possible as you deeply listen.

The Reverend Narelle Collas

### 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

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

### BEWARE!

The Grumpy Old Men are resuming meetings!

10.30am on Tuesdays  
at the  
Groove, Wallington Road.

At the present, we are outdoors, so of course the weather,  
and attire are factors.

You may attend, or steer clear, as appropriate.

### UCAF NEWS

Members please note that there will be **NO** October meeting, but hopefully we may be able to meet in November.

Subscriptions to Network Magazine for 2021 are increasing to \$20.00 and are now due.

If you wish to continue to receive the magazine please place payment in a marked envelope (ensure that you include your name) and deliver to the letterbox of Joan Billington (12 Draper Street) or Judy Greer (14B Acacia Court) by Friday November the 6th.

Did you know that Olive Marshman has had a stroke? Thankfully she is recovering well. Please keep Olive in your prayers.

## 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 at 10.00am**

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER

October 25th Pentecost 21

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12, Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17,  
1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8, Matthew 22: 34-46

November 1st All Saints Day

Revelations 7: 9-17, Psalm 34: 1-10, 22,  
1 John 3: 1-3, Matthew 5: 1-12

November 1st Pentecost 22

Josiah 3: 7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37,  
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13, Matthew 23: 1-12

### KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

**“On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.”**

**1 Thessalonians 2: 4**

Have a laugh!

Walking into his living room a one day after work, a man finds toys and clothes strewn all over the floor, couch and chairs. Next he goes into the kitchen and see piles of dirty dishes and more mess everywhere.

“What happened?” the shocked man asks his wife.

“You know how you always come home and ask me what I did all day?” replies his wife. “Well, today I didn’t do it!”

## FITTED MASKS NOW MANDATORY

Fitted masks are now compulsory in Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Bandanas, face shields, scarves and other items used to cover the mouth and nose are no longer legal.

If you are spotted outside without a fitted mask, you are liable for a \$200 on-the-spot fine.

## BIG NEWS!

### *THE DOVE*

has re-opened and is  
Trading Monday—Saturday  
10.00am—1.00pm.

New clothing available  
at reasonable prices!  
Covid-19 restrictions adhered to!  
Cash only!

No Donations accepted at this time.

Spread the news amongst family and friends.