



# Newsletter

Ocean Grove,  
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday October 4th 2020

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas  
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## MISSION IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

“Mission is quite simply , the participation of Christians in the liberating mission of Jesus, wagering on a future that verifiable experience means to believe. It is the good news of God’s love, incarnated in the witness of a community, for the sake of the world.”

(Bosch, Transforming Mission)

Mission is always shaped by the context it is expressed within, and in 2020 that context has taken turn, due to an enemy invisible to humanity.

Local UC Congregations have typically witnessed to the good news of God’s love in ways that serve the community—food banks, meals programs, providing safe spaces for people to feel included and valued, playgroups, school chaplaincy, community gardens, to name a few examples. These actions have relied heavily upon face –t to face interactions that are restricted at present.

With 88% of internet penetration in Australia we recognise that most people turn online for information and connection. This is the gathering place of the 21st Century. This is our context. Without a doubt, having an engaging online presence is an essential element of incarnating each of our Christian communities witness. Therefore online becomes something we must embrace and learn about. It is an edge in which the church must grow. (statista.com)

The pandemic has caused us to realise how powerful a tool the internet can be. A technology that allows us to remain connected with others, to communicate ideas and influence discourse. And possibly an entry point into Christian community. So let us experiment with our online presence, learn about the pros and cons of various platforms like Facebook, Zoom, Instagram as part of our communities witness to the love of God.

The Reverend Mat Harry (Deacon) (eLM New and Renewing Communities)

### 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.**

### SYNOD HAS MOVED!

Their new physical and mailing address is

Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania  
Level 2, Wesley Place  
130 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Reception—9116 1400  
Isabel Thomas Dobson—9116 1475  
Moderator/Deb Penaluna—9116 1422

### 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.

Let us pray for:

Those still in lockdown in Greater Melbourne. May God sustain you and give you peace and hope that there will be an end to this situation.

Those people who have lost loved ones and had to navigate covid-19 restrictions and border closures. May the Spirit and the body of Christ bring you comfort and support at this time.

Those people in regional places who now that restrictions have been relaxed, are still very fearful of going out and about. May you know that as 2 Timothy 1: 7 says "God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control." May you have courage to step out in safe and secure ways.

Those people who are on jobseeker who are having their payments cut this week. May you be able to cope with this reduction and to have the resilience and energy to keep trying to find work within this difficult time.

Those Congregations across the Presbytery who are undertaking mission studies to discern their future with property, Ministry and Mission.

All of us as we continue to seek to live lives which reflect the extravagant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 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**

#### **Key verse for this week**

"So the last will be first and the first will be last"

## COFFEE CUP CHALLENGE

### A SMALL SACRIFICE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Each year Congregations across Victoria host Pancake Day events to raise vital funds to support people in our Communities who are disadvantaged. This year we're adding an extra dimension to Pancake Day fundraising activities and inviting Congregations to join us in the Coffee Cup Challenge.

From International Coffee Day (Thursday 1st October) until Shrove Tuesday (Tuesday February 16th 2021) participants can "donate" the cost of a cup of coffee each week. You make like to make a donation into a jar every time you make a cuppa at home, or every time you buy a cuppa when out.

By making a small sacrifice regularly you can make a big difference for people in need.

On Pancake Day (or around that date) hopefully we will be able to come together and celebrate with pancakes for morning tea and pool our "sacrifices" together. Each donation will be placed into a Coffee Cup challenge collection.

All funds raised by Share will support people experiencing crisis, vulnerability and disadvantage.

Dianne will register us with Share this week, so start "drinking and donating"

## CROSSLIGHT AVAILABLE FROM FRIDAY OCTOBER 2ND

(BY COMPUTER ONLY)

Go to Crosslight website and  
follow the prompts  
on the right hand side of the page.