



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday January 24th 2021

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

UCAF IS BACK AGAIN!

Members please note a meeting will be held on Monday January the 25th at 10.00am.

We will meet in the church to allow for social distancing and we will be required to wear masks.

At this meeting we will have our Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers, held over from last October.

We will also do some forward planning for our activities for 2021. Unfortunately we will **NOT** be serving our usual morning tea at this stage!

Contact Judy Greer or Robin Munro if you would like to know more about this group.

New members are most welcome.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yes the year is drawing to close and it is time to put pen to paper and prepare the Annual Reports.

You may be wondering what you can include in your report as there does not seem much to say, but once you start thinking it may surprise you to find that although this past year has been one we will all never forget, we must make sure that in the future 2020 was a year that has changed our way of life, and deserves being remembered.

Only a week until the end of the month, so please work on your reports over the weekend and get them to Dianne by next Friday. Thank you

COFFEE CUP CHALLENGE

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.

We are registered us so please start "drinking and donating"

DO YOU NEED A TODDLER'S WALKER OR A SCOOTER?

Then please contact Bob on 0414 266 645
He can provide one for you.

FOR SALE

Electric Adjustable Bed: Queen Size

Supported on 8 lockable wheels.

Laytex mattress, spotless.

Both bed and mattress in perfect condition.

Purchased new in July 2019

Paid \$8,000 sell for \$3,000

Phone Neil 0403 937 427
If interested.

CHANGED ANY CONTACT DETAILS?

If you have changed your address, phone numbers, or email address would you kindly send the details to Dianne Sapwell via the church email address (on the front page of the newsletter).

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY 2021
And FEBRUARY 2021

January 24th Epiphany 3

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10, Psalm 62: 5-12,
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31, Mark 1: 14-20

Bible Reader: Rod Greer

Prayers for the People: The Reverend Bob Thomas

January 31st Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20, Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8: 1-12, Mark 2 22-40

Bible Reader: Pat Reid

Prayers for the People: Dianne Sapwell

February 7th Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c,
1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1: 29-39

Bible Reader: Dianne Sapwell

Prayers for the People: Dianne Sapwell

February 14th Transfiguration of Jesus

2 Kings 2: 1-2, Psalm 50: 1-6
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6, Mark 9: 2-9

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

**“Come follow me, “ Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers
of men.”**

Mark 1: 17

On Christmas Eve 2020, a group of young men from Geelong set off to spend a few days camping on the banks of the Murray River in northern Victoria.

Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, they were looking forward to the freedom of relaxing and fishing by the river.

But, on Christmas Day, one of the young men got into difficulty whilst swimming in the river, and his friends were unable to save him. Thisanthan died far from his home and his family . Tragically, the future of safety and peace that this young man had sought here in Australia was never to be.

Friends from both the Tamil and the Australian communities attended Thisanthan's funeral on Monday 11th. January, in Geelong.

Directed by Jonathan Hepner Funerals , the service was led by a Hindu priest, and a large number of people attended the service.

It was the first Hindu funeral service that I have ever attended, and even though I do not speak Tamil, I was struck by the beauty and gentleness of the ceremony .

Amazingly, the service was able to be filmed and relayed to Thisanthan's family back in Sri Lanka. Thisanthan's friends were able to participate in the rituals of blessing and prayer. Thisanthan was then finally farewelled with gentle music, Hindu blessings, and surrounded with beautiful flowers.

I hope that Thisanthan's parents will be comforted by the knowledge that their son was surrounded by loving friends and a caring community, and that his time with us , though too short, was filled with friendship and hope.

Following the service, a representative of the Tamil community spoke personally to those of us from the Australian community . He expressed his gratitude for all the friendship , love, and support that has been shown over many years to his community.

I would like to echo those thanks, and to thank the wonderful support given by our friends from the Ocean Grove Uniting Church over so many years.

Together we have faced the challenges of providing personal and practical assistance and care to the people from other lands and cultures who came to our country to seek refuge and peace .

You have made it possible for us to assist with providing daily necessities, housing, and for supporting special appeals such as urgent payment of legal fees for protection visas and appeals.

Your wonderful OGUC community has been a support and an inspiration!

We send love and thanks to you from our QRAR members and on behalf of our Refugee and Asylum-seeker community .

Cathie Bond,
Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees.