



# Newsletter

Ocean Grove,  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Sunday January 31st 2021

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

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## ANNUAL REPORTS

Are need from the following groups:  
Loaves and Fishes Pantry  
Joint Nominating Committee  
Treasurers Report  
Band Report

Please have your report to the office by Friday February the 5th so that they can distributed on Sunday February the 7th. Or the 14th at the latest.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY FEBRUARY THE 28TH Directly after the service.**

One of the agenda items will be elections.  
There are vacancies for Church Elders and Councillors.  
We would love to receive nominations, so please consider this.  
If you are interested in nominating someone for either of these positions, please collect a nomination form from either  
Diane Jones (Congregational Secretary)  
or David Runia (Congregational Chairperson).  
Nomination forms are to be returned by  
Wednesday February the 24th.

If you have any items for the agenda, please email them to either David or Diane by Wednesday February the 24th.

*The Dove*  
Annual General Meeting  
Friday 12th February 2021  
1.00pm  
In the church hall.

All welcome

To be followed by a Committee Meeting.

SAD NEWS

We have been informed that  
Graeme Knott has peacefully passed away  
during the past week.

When we have received further details they will be published.

Please keep Megan and the rest of the Knott family  
in your prayers.

You are warmly invited to the Induction of  
The Reverend Peter Jewell

Sunday February the 7th  
2.00pm at Grovedale Uniting Church  
Corner Torquay and Reserve Roads  
Grovedale.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY 2021  
And FEBRUARY 2021

January 31st Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20, Psalm 111,  
1 Corinthians 8: 1-13, Mark 1: 21-28

**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

**Bible Reader: Margaret Hughes**

**Prayers for the People: The Reverend Bob Thomas**

February 21st Lent 1

Genesis 9: 8-17, Psalm 25: 1-10,

1 Peter 3: 18-22, Mark 1: 9-15

**KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK**

**“News about him spread quickly over the whole region of  
Galilee”**

**Mark 1: 28**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH 4.30PM IN THE CHURCH**

**New phone number for Bob**

**Mobile 0479 169 931**

**Please make sure that you write this new number down some-  
where handy,**

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.