



COVID-19 We're nearly there!

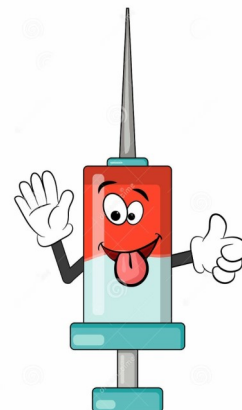
The Not So Burning Question:

When will we be able to return to face to face worship?

The Not So Burning Answer: It is our aim to return to face to face worship in time for Advent which officially commences on the last Sunday of November, but we need to work through some issues before we can do that.

In particular, by law if we're not sure that everyone attending church has been double vaccinated (*or has a Government exemption—not just a note from your doctor*), then attendance is limited to 30 persons which makes face to face worship impractical.

So "get the jab" and "get to church" - we've waited long enough!



"Don't Go Back to Egypt"

*In Biblical times plague, pestilence, famine (pandemics?) were all seen as "acts of God", "warnings from God", "turn from your evil ways". Indeed, it was the '10 Plagues of Egypt' which set the Israelites free from centuries of bondage in Egypt. As we emerge from a mere 18 months of 'bondage', I wonder what God has been saying to us in these troubled times? All around I see shops and restaurants opening and even horse races resuming as if nothing has ever happened. **And as a church what have we learnt? Are we going to move forward with new intent or are we to take the easy path and "return to Egypt"?***

I found this comment by J.M. Farro of "JesusFreakHideout" most interesting -

"A dear neighbour of mine was telling me recently about the break-up she had with a long-term companion. She had truly loved this man and even though the relationship had become toxic there were times when she was tempted to go back to him - I suddenly blurted out, "Don't go back to Egypt!" This woman knew that the Lord was speaking to her through me, and she took His warning to heart, and abandoned the idea of reuniting with the man.

It's hard to believe that after God miraculously delivered the children of Israel from their Egyptian captors, they were tempted to go back to their bondage in Egypt. (Numbers 14:2-4) Their exodus was not an easy one, and there were many challenges along the way. Even though their godly leader, Moses, reminded them constantly about God's promise to protect and provide for them through thick and thin, the Israelites continually complained and commented that they would have been better off had they remained in Egypt. They quickly forgot the cruel treatment and slavery they endured at the hands of their enemies, and they thumbed their noses at the Promised Land that the Lord had in store for them.

This scenario seems almost unbelievable, but many Christians today are doing the same thing. They cry out to the Lord in their trouble, as the Israelites cried out to God, and then when He miraculously delivers them, they struggle with the temptation to go back to the destructive habits and lifestyles that they desperately wanted to escape. I have been guilty of this very thing myself. One example is when I pleaded with the Lord to take away my desire for sweets. After struggling for so long, I finally decided to cooperate with God for my deliverance, no matter what it took. The Lord showed me how to literally "fast" from sweets whenever I was tempted to overindulge. This strategy was an answer to my prayers--until one day, I began getting "sloppy" with my eating, and I was in danger of seriously backsliding. As clear as day, I heard the Holy Spirit almost shout at me inside my own spirit-- "Don't go back to Egypt!" It was enough to jolt me back to reality, and to help me decide to get back on track.

Perhaps you can relate to my experience. The Lord has delivered you from an ungodly habit or relationship, and you feel yourself slipping back into your old ways. Jesus said the truth would set us free (John 8:36), and keeping our minds and hearts focused on the truth will bring the ultimate freedom. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1 NIV) If you are struggling with the temptation to backslide, you just might hear the voice of God's precious Spirit pleading with you--"Don't go back to Egypt..."

Many thanks to all who have contributed for many years to the work of our church through the "Planned Giving Envelope" system. Whilst this system has now finished and many people give by bank "direct credit", there will still be the opportunity to make your contribution at church when we return to face to face worship

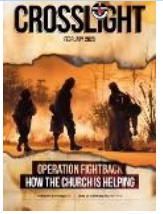




Bible Readings for November 7th Pentecost 24 (the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

Ruth 3:1-5,4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the **CROSSLIGHT** image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au



Print copies of **CROSSLIGHT** usually available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church. Latest **CROSSLIGHT** now available from David Vine, 4 Jemma Ct. Cheltenham 9583 7373.

Prayers of the People

We pray especially for -

Dawn's daughter Carol
Margaret Bryan
Robert (Joan Wright's brother)
Pete, Bruce & Valda (friends of Jo-ann & David)
Anita and Rod
Barb Loosemore
Isobel Churchward

Stuart as he struggles with addiction
Janine and June Bartholomeusz (Jenny & Cec thank you for your prayers)
Audrey Fewster
Margaret's neighbour Joan
Grace Fairbank

Gemma and Teresa
Heather (daughter of close friend of Graeme & Joan)
Tina and her two teenage sons (also friends of Graeme & Joan)
Susan Bartell
Bronwyn
Gloria Sampson & Family



THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The **FRIENDSHIP GROUP** are planning to meet on Tuesday 9th November, at the

Cheltenham Golf Club, at 10am.

Further details from Helen Cole on 8588 1789 or hmcole15@gmail.com

Double vaccination will be required.



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download> Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230 Passcode: 836844** You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details. The above link and meeting details apply for all our services until the **December 26th 2021.**



Videos on the Internet



NEW YouTube Channel; Follow this link or click on the YouTube logo https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_lezegzNZi6nnQ to view selected sermons and service preludes



Social Collection Department

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them (Graeme & Joan Wood) on 9555 0462 (BayCISS contact number 9555 9910) From BayCISS "Many thanks to all those who continue to drop off food parcels".

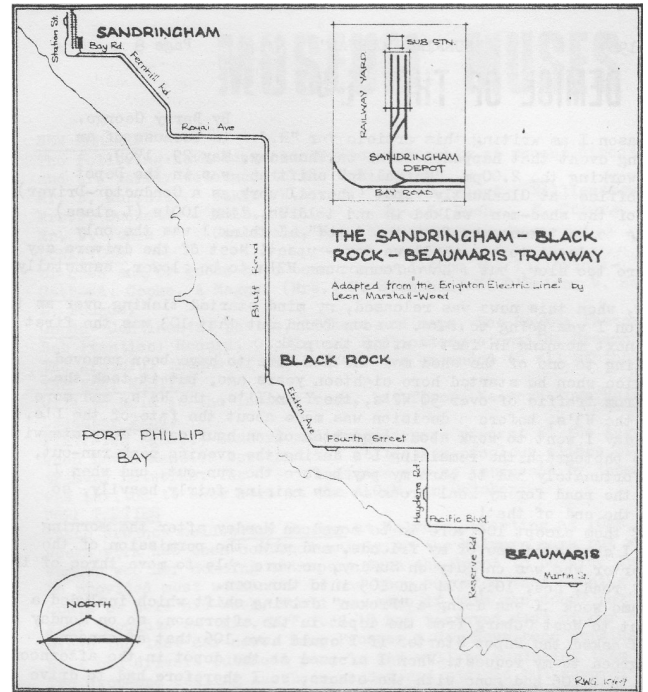
Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.

"Those were the days my friend"



Many thanks to Sally Hobbs for this photo taken at the corner of Beach and Bluff Rds, Black Rock with Balcombe Rd just visible on the right. From her mother's notes on the back would appear to have been taken around 1918.

In 1919 this corner was the terminus for the new Sandringham to Black Rock Tramway,



The line was extended to Beaumaris in 1926 but its existence was short lived due to the then sparsely populated nature of Beaumaris and it closed in 1931



Above: Another Black Rock icon (*and place of employment for me*) was 'John Hancock's Theatre Restaurant at 202 Beach Rd. Originally built as "The Elektra Guest House" it became a popular place of entertainment in many guises, mostly honourable, others, well - I remember my mother distracting my gaze whilst driving past in the days when it was "The Stork Club"!

Right: "Any advertising is good advertising" - John Hancock's Beetle from the days when his theatre restaurant was in Mt Eliza



Your Weekly Offering

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Envelopes: You may do this by putting your pledge in the envelopes and bring them to church.

Direct Debit: (include your envelope number if applicable)

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council", BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206