



A COVID Easter

I felt disengaged as Easter approached. Recovering from eye surgery and then coming down with COVID 19. I felt disembodied, just an 'onlooker'.

It was hard to focus my eyes, let alone my brain. On Palm Sunday I felt the anguish of the people calling out and throwing palms down on the road for Christ, calling out to proclaim Christ as their Saviour, but helpless to do anything constructive about it.

On Maundy Thursday I thought about Christ washing the disciples' feet and wanted my feet to be washed and my whole self made clean. I felt unclean and unworthy.

On Good Friday I was overcome with a feeling of helplessness after our solemn remembrance of Christ's Crucifixion on the Cross — just as the disciples must have felt that day.

However, the "What to do at Easter" in our previous Newsletter came to mind and I decided to make some Italian Easter bread and some Gluten Free Hot Cross buns. It was amazing, the transformation I felt when doing something about Easter tide. I found that by my attempt at making Easter seem more real, and my endeavours actually looked and tasted delicious, it felt like a cloud had been lifted and I was now a participant in the transforming love of Christ.



Jo-ann's delicious hot cross buns

I felt the stone had been rolled away and my eyes opened. Christ had been with me all along, guiding me into acceptance and then joy in His presence.

Early on Easter Sunday, I saw Father Ken in the garden of St Thomas, Bunyip. I told him that although I was now out of isolation, I didn't want to mingle with people. Ken then offered to give me Communion out in the garden after the morning worship service. Oh what joy to receive communion and feel physically a part of 'His throng'. What a blessing it is for us Christians to have Christ alongside us, even when we are not aware of Him.

So now, have a look at the fruits of my Easter baking.
- Jo-ann Stenton



Italian Easter Bread which we used as 'bread' during Easter Day 'Zoom' Communion



Fr Ken Parker dispensing Communion in the gardens of St Thomas, Bunyip

Please be aware that several of our members have tested positive for COVID-19, the most recent being Helen Cole (*many are infected with COVID in the village where she lives*). Jo-ann and I are recovering slowly. If you feel the least bit unwell *please* get yourself tested immediately. Never hesitate to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Remember that if you test positive to COVID-19 it is **your responsibility** to inform anyone with whom you may have been in contact.

Last Sunday (Easter Day) Rev Greg Fry played part of the "Easter Message 2022" by Moderator Denise Liersch. The video invites us to listen to the story of Good Friday through Luke's eyes. "Luke invites us to listen much more deeply and to let ourselves be touched by the griefs and disappointments that saturate his story of the resurrection of Jesus" Denise says. "Resurrection faith is about discovering that the body of Christ is no longer in the tomb. Christ is alive in our midst as we pray together, sing and laugh, forgive each other and eat and drink together. Hear the good news: we don't say 'Christ was risen', 'Christ **is** risen, Christ is risen indeed'."

To view the full message follow this link or click on the image opposite.
<https://crosslight.org.au/2022/03/30/moderators-easter-reflection/>



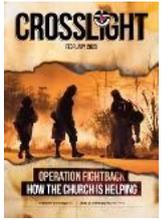


Bible Readings for April 24th Easter 2 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

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 Crt. Cheltenham 9583 7373.



Prayers

of the People



We pray especially for -

Olga	Stuart <i>as he struggles with addiction</i>	Gemma and Teresa
Virginia <i>(Nan's friend)</i>	Janine and June Bartholomeusz	Susan Bartell
Betty Kneen	Audrey Fewster	Bronwyn
Dawn's daughter Carol	Margaret's neighbour Joan	Gloria, Samson & Family
Pete, Christine, Bruce & Valda <i>(friends of Jo-ann & David)</i>	Jo-ann	Barb Loosemore
Grace Fairbank	Rosemary & Bob	Isobel Churchward
Carol		Anita and Kingsley

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

Envelopes: If you wish your offering to be specifically for Cheltenham, please place it in an envelope marked "Cheltenham" and place it in the offering bowl at church.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our new Westpac account at **Southland The account number is 664 881 and the BSB number is 033 358**

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council"

The former Commonwealth Bank - BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206 - is still active for the time being.

Cheltenham-Mentone Members: Please bear in mind that although we are worshipping at Black Rock, the expenses of electricity, water, insurance, maintenance and Minister's stipend are still ongoing at Cheltenham.

Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am *(virtual 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.

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

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.



Why did the art thief's getaway vehicle run out of fuel?

He had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh.

The man that invented the Ferris wheel never met the man that invented the merry go round. They traveled in different circles.

