

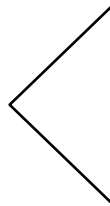
Warragul Uniting Church, 'Keeping in Touch' 22, Written 6th October 2020



Thanks to Mary Morison for the photos...all from the church garden.

The way that our garden is growing...weeds and all...I was reminded of the 'poem'...

**'Spring is sprung,
the grass is riz,
I wonder where the birdie is?
The bird is on the wing,
no, that's absurd,
the wing is on the bird'.**



This is an anonymous poem **sometimes called the Brooklyn (or Bronx) National Anthem**. It has been in print since at least 1936. There have been many variations since. "Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wish I were in the chocolate biz! Happy Easter!" is a variation from 2015.

This is a time for celebration and growth...the colour for the Church season is green...growth, planning new things, changing things, planting and replanting, regeneration...and celebration of these things. None of these happens without planning, thinking and doing. The 'spring clean' is part of this process. Hopefully, Covid19 has taught us to value friendships, to be watchful, careful, keep doing what we can, make changes to what we are used to, find new ways of 'meeting', more aware of each other's needs, sensitive to people's needs, reaching out to each other, prayerful, thoughtful, thankful. Maybe thinking a little more about what faith means for us and how we can live that faith better, the great love of God that is always there for us. Gratefulness for what we have. And so much more!

NEWSFIRST: a special one page edition of 'News First' will be distributed soon. This contains information about the Induction of the Rev Ian Brown at 7pm on Warragul on Friday 13th November. It also contains a request for you to **SEND A PHOTO OF YOURSELF** (preferably head and shoulders) to the church office so that we can make a photo album for Ian Brown. Photo could be a hard copy or attached to an email. If we can do this it will help him to get to know us more easily.

VANUATU: I am told that 'our boys' arrived in Vanuatu on Saturday (3rd Oct) and are quarantining in a holiday resort for 14 days. What a journey this has been for them and for Tony and Di Carson who have stood beside them all of the way! Di and Tony have worked so hard to smooth the way for them and sort through the maze of rules, restrictions and regulations so that they could return home. Noel has also been providing valuable assistance. Thank you all for your patience and determination.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: Thanks to Eric Smith who led a very meaningful and challenging Zoom Communion service last Sunday. My count was that 22 people attended this Service. Our next Zoom Worship Service is on Sunday 18th October. Thanks to all who read the prayers and scripture.

FROM LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP:

*God of all creation,
you spill yourself out before our eyes
in the wonder of the world,
in the miracle of existence,
in the scandal of love unbounded,
you hear us when we call, you restore us,
to be your people
living and loving in the world, as Jesus did.*

When we pray, Paul assures us that, "The peace of God that passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." May we who pray rest in the peace of Christ and find our meaning in lives of service and faithfulness. May it be so. Thanks be to God: Amen!

Sometimes we forget that Jesus was a radical and his values are costly.

BIRTHDAYS, CELEBRATIONS: Happy birthday and congratulations to those celebrating significant events. Because we cannot physically meet together celebrations can sometimes seem very strange. BUT they offer the opportunity of a one to one conversation over the phone...private! Emails are also good but a bit impersonal...how about making a card yourself? You could use cut-outs from the newspaper, advertising material, magazines, whatever you have. Maybe deliver it to the letter box? Cut and paste is always good...doesn't need drawing skills. If you post it and delivery is delayed this means that the celebration continues for a few more days...all good!

TESTING TIMES: I am aware of a number of people who are having medical tests, about to undergo surgery, recovering from surgery and struggling with health issues. These are testing times when restrictions mean significantly reduced visiting times and a reduction in the number of people who can visit, even in our homes. As we remember these people in our prayers, let's also remember the people and families who support and care for them; leaders of countries who are suffering from the Corona19 Virus; the families of those who have died; medical and hospital staff; people in refugee camps; those in detention on Manus and Christmas Islands; those who live very close to others in high rise buildings; disadvantaged people who do not have the resources they need and live in overcrowded slum conditions.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK encourages the Australian community to have an increased understanding of poverty and to take action collectively to end it. A key message is: **Poverty exists. Poverty hurts us all. We can all do something about it.** It is one of hope, not despair. In **2020**, Anti-Poverty Week will be held from the **11th to the 17th of October**. If you have a computer or smart phone, log onto: antipovertyweek.org.au for more information.

'Coffee' Time ?



On behalf of the Extended Executive of the Church Council:
Peace and blessing,

Des Parker

KIT 22 Written on Tuesday 6th October, 2020

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