



Racism, Reconciliation and Refugees

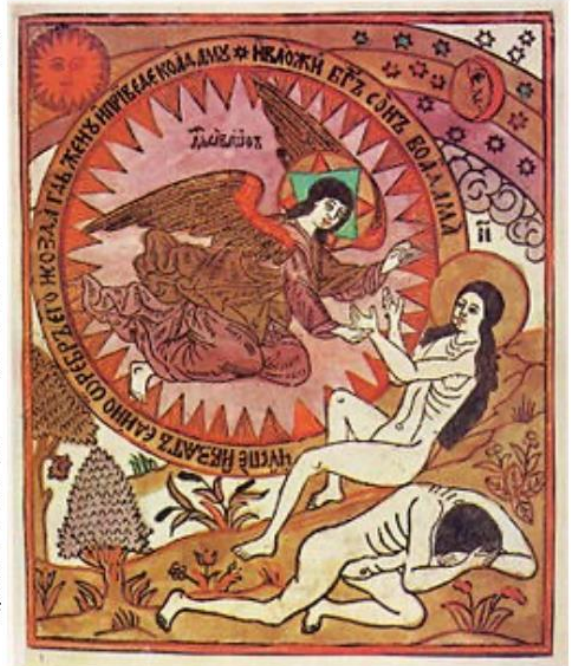
Rev. Bruce Watson

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; ... in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Picture: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adam_and_Eve_Lubok.jpg

The text from Genesis on Trinity Sunday that reminds us that we are made in the image of God provides an essential context for our responses to the stark reality of racism in our society. As a young Black boy participating in the protests in Chicago remarked, "It doesn't matter whether we are black or white. We are all people!"

However, it is easier for us to have an opinion about dramatic examples of racism and police brutality, than respond in creative, personal, and practical ways to the call for reconciliation between First and Second Peoples in Australia. Working for peace and justice and welcoming refugees and asylum seekers forgotten in these days of Covid 19 does not attract media attention.



Our UCA President, Dr Deidre Palmer and Pastor Mark Kickett urged Australians to focus their attention on racism in our own country, particularly at the end of National Reconciliation Week.

"Here in Australia I am constantly reminded of the journey that First Peoples, my people, have had to endure and are continuing to endure and yet the resilience of the First Nations continues to shine through such great adversity," said Pastor Kickett.

"We began this National Reconciliation week by saying we need to strengthen our actions for justice, healing and reconciliation," added Dr Palmer. "This is not an abstract call – it is seen expressed daily in our relationships with one another in this country."

Let us commit ourselves together to do what we can for justice and reconciliation and follow the example of Jesus with generous hearts of welcome and solidarity.

**CONGREGATIONS HAVE YOU DONE
YOUR DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION
RECORDS SEARCH? (PAGE 4)**



Mental Health Matters

Rev Fiona Bottcher [Deacon]

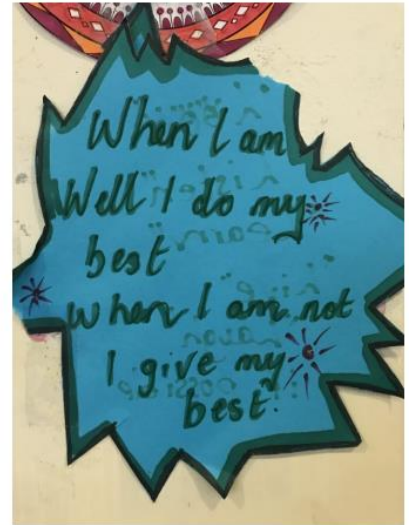
"Ms J", a patient in an acute psych ward, was worried about how she'd cope "out there". "I don't think I'm ready" she said. She talked about her need for strategies and support.

I asked about the strategies that had worked for her and she mentioned mindfulness and self-kindness, although she said she wasn't good at either. But it was when she started talking about the advice and encouragement from other patients that she really lit up.

I'm often touched by the genuine compassion and support shared between patients. "You've got this!" is often exclaimed from the heart.

Ms J points to a message stuck to a wall by a recently discharged patient. "When I am well I do my best, when I am not I give my best" it reads. "I love that so much, it's my new mantra".

Like miss J, we find hope in suffering from those with a real, relatable, lived experience of what it is we're going through, people who travel the roads we travel and survive. While we yearn to gather again, the walls of the church are replaced by these messages of hope, messages that hold us together in God's love, and know no bounds.



PPW Messy Church Workshop!

June 25th 2 – 3:30 pm

Messy church, young families and Intergenerational ministry.

Let us do some problem solving together. All welcome.

Hosted by Rev. Linley Liersch & Chris Barnett (eLM Intergenerational Ministry)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89824457815>



Intergenerate

Australian Conference

June 16 - 17th Cost: \$50.

This two-day online event aims to help people understand the power of their family's story for faith formation. Featuring 14 expert speakers—See Regenerating the Church FB. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.intergenerate.com.au/events>.

PPW Intergenerate Debrief

You enjoyed the conference and now you want to share what you learnt.

11am 24th June

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85024808356>

Host: Linley Liersch & Chris Barnett

9 minutes @ 9

As we begin to surface from lockdown we pray for:

Guidance: enable us to step out of isolation with renewed compassion and a spirit of wisdom.

Diligence: as we complete and maintain checklists designed to keep us all safe.

Generosity: That we continue the wonderful expressions of love and care for neighbour and for our planet that have emerged during this crisis.

Openness: That we can find ways to continue to maintain connections with those who have joined us during on-line worship.

Community: For families (and church families) that can now reconnect.

Courage: That we can continue to make choices based on love and not fear.

Humility: To accept our shortcomings and to listen and learn from You in each other.

Jeanne Beale

AMEN

New Date

MENTOR Training Day

18th July

10 am - 3:30 pm

Mel Perkins, Fran Barber &

Dev Anandarajan

Don't Go Back!

Ministers and Church Councils...Don't go back to normal! Find a new normal.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON-LINE WORSHIP : What should we keep?

June 18th 3 pm Zoom

Join Zoom Conversation

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83710218121>

Meeting ID: 837 1021 8121

I wonder if the Church Council members would be interested in this?

DON'T GO BACK TO SOMETHING GOD HAS ALREADY RESCUED YOU FROM.

The Presbytery PPW is looking for people to train as **Mentors** for people in their Period of Discernment (POD), lay preacher, and ministers in their phase 3 (Exits). Please think about this training for yourself and for members of your ministry context.

DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION:



Andy Calder (Disability Inclusion Advocate—eLM)

Firstly I trust you have received the information sent widely across the Synod re the Disability Royal Commission (DRC) and what our response needs to be. There's a lot of detail that needed to be conveyed!

The letter summarised the required **3 tasks of Congregations / Communities of Christ** :

1. **Inform people with disabilities** about the opportunities to share their story of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.
2. **Church Councils undertake a confidential records search back to 1 July 2012** of any incidents of abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation of people with disabilities in any of their congregational activities that provide a disability service. I suspect Church Council records are variable in their detail.
3. **Notify that the search has been done.** Once your records have been searched, please inform drc@victas.uca.org.au by **Monday 6 July** that (1) the search has been completed and (2) of any pertinent information.

FYI separate letters have gone to Uniting AgeWell, Uniting VicTas and UC schools, so it's only congregations and their activities you need be concerned with.

Secondly, also related to the DRC, is that the Commission is gathering information about a range of topic areas that affect people with disability. I am coordinating responses on behalf of Synod to the **Emergency Planning and Response** Issues Paper: <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/emergency-planning-and-response>

Invitation from the Royal Commission into

Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC)

FOR
NEWSLETTER

The Royal Commission is now well underway and is inviting people to share experiences of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania welcomes this Royal Commission and is committed to responding actively and fully. The Commission provides an opportunity for us to work together with people with disability to create a society that is inclusive, respectful of difference and where all people are valued and honoured.

If you have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation as a person with a disability, or are aware of this happening, we encourage you to tell your story or make a submission to the Disability Royal Commission. You can do this in writing or by asking for a private session with a Commissioner. It can be distressing and difficult to raise these issues and the Commission can provide you with counselling and support. For more details go to <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/share-your-story>

Legal, emotional and advocacy support services are available to people engaging with the Disability Royal Commission. More information about these support services can be found at <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/counselling-and-support>.

You may also like to look at a video produced by VALiD 'People with Disability in the Community' <https://www.dropbox.com/s/it2dk8zlcg8nb/People%20with%20Disability%20in%20the%20Community.mp4?dl=0>

You do not need to talk to us about your experience before making a submission.

Anyone affected by the Disability Royal Commission can access free, specialist counselling support through Blue Knot Foundation. Call 1800 421 468.

However, if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, you can contact Rev Andy Calder on either andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au or 03 9380 8844. Andy is the Synod's Disability Inclusion Advocate and is Chairperson of the Synod's Disability Royal Commission Task Force. Any such contact will be confidential.