

# The Westerly



PRESBYTERY  
OF PORT  
PHILLIP  
WEST

PPW& PWV Newsletter No.29 – 30th March 2022



Presbytery  
of Western  
Victoria

## Bemoaning Resistance

**Mat Harry** [New and Renewing Communities Catalyst eLM]

Many of us practitioners who are challenging Christian communities to adapt to the context we now find ourselves in, bemoan the resistance to change. Too many of us will laugh at this image below because we can relate all too clearly... Hoping is not a great tactic.

Very often we experience Church Leadership who desire for the outcomes to change – like more people coming along to worship – but they aren't necessarily all that interested in changing the processes that lead to those outcomes. The hope is that the church can continue to do exactly the same things, but get completely different results. We all know you can't continue with the same processes and expect different outcomes.

Processes must be changed to get different results!

**But as a leader what is your change strategy?**

*How are you attempting to change the processes of church life?*

*What specific changes in behaviour are being asked of people?*

*What levers do you pull, what motivations do you provide?*

***Is the path you are leading people along clear?***

As part of the leadership you need to be crystal clear on where you are leading people. Indeed, one of the factors that contributes to resistance to change is a lack of understanding of where leadership is asking people to move to.



Another cause of resistance to change is that people are not motivated to change. This may mean that the emotional side of people is more invested in the way things are. There is greater pleasure associated in staying as they are and greater pain associated with changing. This needs to be flipped the other way to get emotional 'buy-into' the change process and therefore create momentum for change.

If you are experiencing resistance to change, can you identify whether it is:-

***A lack of understanding of where people are being asked to move to***

***A lack of engagement of the emotional side of people to change***

***Is it a combination of Both?***

Keep offering strong bold leadership in the name of Christ.

(From the editor: Mat Harry offers weekly inspirational emails pls contact [Mat.Harry@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Mat.Harry@victas.uca.org.au)).

Holy Week

***Is your Church/Agency wanting to make changes to Reduce Emissions?***  
***Sue Strong [PPW Climate Action]***

***Take a look at what this church in Melbourne has done. Hope it inspires you!***

**Glen Waverly Uniting Church** [Since 2014]

**1. Rainwater tanks –**

- ⇒ Installed 40,000L water tanks.
- ⇒ Supplied water to the toilets and the manses through a pump system. –
- ⇒ Designed the system for the facilities having 4000 visitors a month. –
- ⇒ Received a government grant.
- ⇒ Implemented water saving measures throughout the church complex.

**2. Better garden**

- ⇒ The congregation has a history of taking good care of their environment.
- ⇒ Removed the English garden, grew Australia native plants.
- ⇒ Installed water saving systems.
- ⇒ Increased green areas for the public.
- ⇒ Reduced garden waste and landfill waste.

**3. Reduce, reuse, and recycle**

- ⇒ Reduce waste through both internal and external usage.
- ⇒ Reuse items, discourage one-use plastic cups
- ⇒ Recycle all the recyclables.

**4. Remove of all electric heaters**

- ⇒ Removed a large in-ceiling heater in the church building.
- ⇒ Removed electric fans in various offices
- ⇒ Installed reverse circle air conditioning in the church.

**5. Install energy efficient lighting**

- ⇒ Removed old lights.
- ⇒ Installed new LED lights for the church and its hall.
- ⇒ Installed LED lights for outdoor space.

**6. Install 30kW solar panel systems on the church / manse**

- ⇒ Installed 30kW PV and three 10kW invertors.
- ⇒ Installed the second PV system for the manse.
- ⇒ Planned to install PV on the second manse.
- ⇒ Towards full electrocution of the church complex.
- ⇒ Used the solar to offset other emissions.

## A True Reflection

**By Rev. A.J. Goldsmith 16/2/2022**

If true reflection is only to see a mirror  
image of what I do,  
or if it must distort and swell to out of  
character facets of my view  
what good is it to reflect?  
And what in reflection makes true?  
If reflection be but a facile mirage,  
and is a lonely enterprise of one,  
how can it be of any use to see;  
what the world's undone

Reflection's uses are as a pensive,  
useful only when,  
shared with another unlike no other,  
a Spirit, a Son and a Father, all friends.

But then what of reflection may inspire,  
a heart, a flame, a burning desire;  
a flicker, a glimmer, a change of mind,  
an action, a kindness, a knowledge, a time?  
Reflection is dangerous you see,  
it can distort an eye, for a we.  
Reflection can change the world and then...  
we must reflect on reflection and think  
again.

## **Join us in prayer for**

- The people of Ukraine. We pray for a de-escalation of tensions, respect for established national borders, a return to dialogue and peace to prevail.
- Those impacted by landslides in Brazil in the midst of the challenges already posed by the pandemic. We pray also for our Uniting Church communities from Brazil who are concerned for their loved ones.

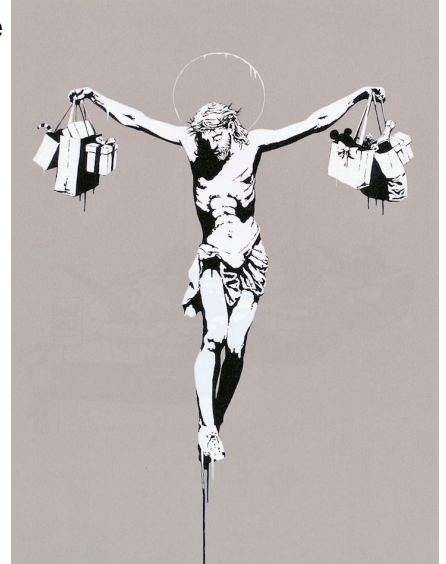
# Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTCHER (DEACON AT SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

How will you begin Holy Week this year? Perhaps you plan to take part in the Psalm Sunday National Day of Action, a protest event demanding justice and freedom for refugees. Or perhaps you feel the pull towards a quieter space, a time free of busyness to contemplate the symbols of death and resurrection that surround us daily.

This year, I'm drawn to the image created by street artist Banksy titled *Christ with Shopping Bags*. I first saw it, ironically, on a shopping trip. Although it appears to be a critique of the rampant consumerism that defines modern Christmas celebrations, there's something particularly striking about this image: The emaciated Jesus, his body broken and dripping, pained and weighed down by shopping bags, that calls us to engage more deeply and honestly with our own Easter stories.

**It can be hard for us to truly grasp the radical freedom gifted to us through Jesus' death on the cross.** A freedom found in charity, compassion, forgiveness, and gratitude. A freedom found when we have the courage to abandon our preoccupation with the material things in life. The radical freedom of lives lived in the fullness of God's unconditional love of all creation.



## Graham Kendrick "Banquet" album

By Rev Linley Liersch

Graham Kendrick "Banquet" album is good theology put to music for Holy Week. *Why is this album so good? Listening to the words in these songs helped me grieve the loss of my father. I was not looking for quick answers, I was looking for tried and tested theology. This album explores the loss and emotions of Holy week.*



**Palm Sunday—Stand Up** tells us to stand up, cry out like the stones, to fight for justice.

**Monday— Apostles Creed (I believe)** the anointing of Jesus feet was a great statement of belief by the woman in John 12. Sing this creedal statement in everyday language.

**Tuesday— On Holy Ground (God, our God is near)** the words parallel the 'Hour has come' in John 12 with the darkening world and the God of glory thunders.

**Wednesday—Love Each Other (All the room was hushed)** speaks of Jesus washing the disciples feet John 13 and captures the words in Jesus prayer for his followers, on the importance of love in John's Ch.15-17.

**Maundy Thursday—The Banquet**, these words are beautiful and rich enough to be a sung communion liturgy.

**Good Friday - Merciful (At the cross where Jesus suffered)** we lay down our pain, anger and blame at the cross.

**Saturday—Have you heard** tells of the God of love and how he came among us.

**Easter Sunday—I know he Lives (we have a strong and Certain Hope) & Risen (This joyful Eastertide)** has Christ that was slain ... burst his three day prison... but now is Christ arisen!





**Our planet is changing: Do we?**  
**Justice and International Mission  
 Convention 2022**

**Saturday 30 April**

**9:30 am – 4:15 pm**

**Centre for Theology and Ministry or On-Line**  
 29 College Crescent, Parkville

\$40 for Metro. Participants

\$25 concession and non-Metropolitan participants

\$10 online participants.

We are witnessing a rapidly growing scientific understanding of the need to act urgently on the environmental challenges we are facing. The Justice and International Mission Convention revisits where the Uniting Church can continue to make a difference in how Australia impacts environment issues.

At this Convention we will particularly consider the issue of whether technological developments will enable us to continue with our current lifestyles without unsustainable harm being done to our planet. The alternative possibility is that we will need to significantly change our lifestyle.

Join in and be part of the conversation to inform the future direction of the Uniting Church's social justice mission as we unpack the urgency of climate change that we are all facing.

Register now by accessing the Conference brochure [here](#) Or contact Alicia Torres Centre for Theology and Ministry (03) 9340 8815 or email: [Alicia.Torres@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Alicia.Torres@victas.uca.org.au)



# “Stations of the Cross”

## Dr. Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM

Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann, 2021 Senior Australian of the year, is a renowned Aboriginal Artist and Educator who is dedicated to creating bright and fulfilling futures for Aboriginal children and youth. She was the first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher in the Northern Territory and is the founder of the Miriam Rose [Foundation](#). Miriam Rose speaks five local languages along with English and is responsible for establishing the highly successful Merrepen Arts centre in Nauiyu.



Photo: The Canberra Times

Born in the bush near Daly River, Miriam Rose is a member of the Ngangiwumirr language group. While maintaining her traditional cultural education to “read the country” she continued learning from the pages of her textbooks. By the age of 14, Miriam Rose returned home to the Daly River and continued her education at the St Francis Xavier mission school, where she was baptised a Catholic. In 1971, passionate about teaching and education, she returned to Kormilda to undertake teacher training. It was during this time that Miriam Rose became keenly interested in painting. In 1975, Miriam Rose returned to Daly River as the Territory’s first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher and for many years held the position of Art Consultant. During this time she visited schools throughout the Territory and promoted the inclusion of visual art as a part of every child’s education.

Miriam Rose also saw the need for more Aboriginal teachers to work among non-Aboriginal school children. She became deeply committed to ensuring that Aboriginal people had the opportunity to become qualified teachers and to manage their own schools. Miriam Rose continues to advocate that education is a matter for the whole community, and must be adapted to suit contemporary Aboriginal needs. In 1986, along with other members of the Nauiyu Community, Miriam Rose established the Merrepen Arts Centre which fosters adult education with a strong focus on the visual arts.

Miriam Rose has been acclaimed for her series of paintings, **The Australian Stations of the Cross** and her illustrations in Alan Marshall’s book “**People of the Dreaming**” and in “**Our Mob, God’s Story**”.

(Picture) **Simon of Cyrene shouldering Jesus’ Cross** [Mark 15:21].

Painted in 1974-75 it now hangs in the Daly River Church.

Martin Wilson MSC says **“When Simon takes hold of the cross, his body merges with that of Jesus. The pattern on Jesus head is open: He is giving grace to to Simon to strengthen him.”**

By 1993 Miriam had gained a Bachelor of Education degree and was appointed to the position of Principal at the St. Francis Xavier School at Daly River. She later went on to gain her Masters of Education Degree, with a high distinction. In 1998, Miriam Rose was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, for her services to Aboriginal education and art, and her services to the Nauiyu community. Miriam’s Order of Australia was later followed by further acknowledgment when she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Northern Territory University. This was in recognition of her outstanding service and contribution to the Northern Territory in the fields of arts and education.







# Education Even



April 6th  
1pm

## Messy Church Matters

Chris Barnett & Linley Liersch coaching MC leaders.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82299905871> Meeting ID: 822 9990 5871



April 20th 7:30pm  
April 21st 2pm

## Digital Welcoming

Mat Harry & Linley Liersch look at 'how do we do welcome on-line?' Websites. Social Media Ministry & more... <https://events.humanitix.com/digital-welcoming>

April 30th  
9:30 pm

## Justice and International Mission Convention 2022.



Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm **OR** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2pm

After the success of the Workshop series *Developing a Culture of Welcoming* there has been great interest in pushing deeper into how people gather within Digital Spaces?

***How is it that community can be formed online?***

***How is it that churches can optimise the opportunities of their websites?***

***How can the Digital space act as an entry point into discipleship?***

***How can a pathway be developed that incorporates the Digital realm?***

These are exciting questions churches are engaging, particularly as we seem to be entering a hybrid digital / in-person space. Revs Linley Liersch & Mat Harry will present some of the learnings that others have shared within the framework of a Welcoming Pathway. <https://events.humanitix.com/digital-welcoming>

*Please note the calendar event insert incorporates all of the time from Wed night (7:30) – Thursday 3pm.*