

A Pastoral Note

It is noted that the COVID-19 (formerly referred to as the Coronavirus) is currently at a low risk of transmission in Australia with limited human to human transmission in Australia to date. This does not mean that there has been no impact upon people in our local and wider Australian Communities. Fear founded upon false information or that connects with unjust behaviours like racism are possible when we do not have reliable information and when we forget to see one another as children of God. We must first ensure that we treat everyone in our society with compassion, recognising that for some, they are feeling especially vulnerable because of assumptions about COVID-19; some members of our wider communities may even have experienced racism unjustly linked to COVID-19.

Second, there are a variety of practices we can utilise that are appropriate pastoral responses as well as assistance for limiting any possible transmissions of COVID-19 or colds/flu. We have established at each one of our sites and for activities of BCRC, the recommended Antiseptic Hand Gel so members/visitors can feel comfortable cleaning their hands. If you are about to sneeze or cough, use a tissue or cough into the sleeve of your jacket/shirt. If you are feeling unwell, be gentle with yourself and rest at home.

As worshipping congregations, we will be suspending the practice of Passing the Peace until further notice; this is largely due to pastoral concerns to ensure that members who do feel a level of dis-ease may not feel compelled to shake hands. The welcomers/worship leaders/ministers will still greet people at the doors, but not offer handshakes. I wish to underline that this is being put into place mostly for pastoral reasons and not for any major concerns regarding transmission of COVID-19.

For more information of the COVID-19 and other health matters, please consult the webpage of NSW Health.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me or one of the Ministry Team.

Let us continue to pray for those who have been impacted by COVID-19 including one another and seek for compassion and for the relevant information to continue to be present, overcoming our fears and assisting us with being a safe and welcoming church.

Peace

Rev Stephen Matthews, Ministry Team Leader

A Pastoral Note from Our National Assembly

In the face of the novel Coronavirus, the global community is responding rapidly to minimise the spread of the disease and address its impacts. There is a certain level of anxiety and suspicion of others that has crept in to our psyche, but we must not forget our call as Christians to love our neighbour.

In our responding as a Church it is most important to **heed the advice of the health professionals** whose expertise is to protect the community and prevent the spread of the disease, and to **be aware of public health announcements**.

As the Church, we are part of congregations and communities that are relating to each other in close proximity. Our agencies and schools are responding appropriately to their particular contexts. As the Church, we also need to respond in ways that are consistent with our vision -attending to people who are most vulnerable, to those who may feel anxious or isolated. As local congregations, you may want to think about your worship practices, including serving communion, passing the peace and greeting each other in ways that reflect our common life, and at the same time attend to the health advice that we are given.

The situation is changing rapidly so please keep yourselves informed through official health sources in your state or territory.

For now, I offer you a brief prayer and encourage you to share it with those in your communities.

Grace and peace,

Dr Deidre Palmer, President of the UCA (5 March 2020)

A Prayer

Gracious and loving God, give wisdom and strength to all those in our community and around the world, who are responding to the coronavirus - health professionals, government officials, aged care providers, school leaders.

May those who mourn the loss of loved ones to the virus, be comforted. May those in our community who are feeling anxious, find peace and reassurance.

May our congregations, and faith communities be places of compassion, attentive to those who are impacted by the coronavirus. May we be communities of empathy, love and care, in all we face.

Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

March 2020

<u>Sun. 9</u>	<u>Lent 2</u>
Mon. 10	Playtime, 9.30am Ministry Team Meeting, 2.00-3.00pm
Tues. 11	Parent Connections, 8.30am Embroidery Class – 9.30am English Conversation, 11.00am
Thurs. 12	Parent Connection, 8.30am Drawing Class – 9.30am English Conversation, 7.30pm
Frid. 13	Induction of Rev Danielle Hemsworth-Smith at Paddington Uniting Church at 7pm. Location of Church: 395 Oxford St, Paddington.
<u>Sun. 16</u>	<u>Lent 3</u>
Mon. 17	Playtime, 9.30am Ministry Team Meeting, 2.00-3.00pm ACCESS BIBLE STUDY, 4.15pm
Tues. 18	Parent Connections, 8.30am Embroidery Class – 9.30am English Conversation, 11.00am
Wed. 19	Newington BIBLE STUDY 10.30am.
Thurs. 20	Parent Connection, 8.30am Drawing Class – 9.30am English Conversation, 7.30pm
<u>Sun 23</u>	<u>LENT 4</u>
Mon. 24	Playtime, Malvern Hill , 9.30am
Tues. 25	Parent Connections, 8.30am Embroidery Class – 9.30am English Conversation, 11.00am
Thurs. 27	Parent Connection, 8.30am Drawing Class – 9.30am English Conversation, 7.30pm

Burwood Croydon Uniting Church Weekly News

Website: <http://burwood-croydon.unitingchurch.org.au/>

Sunday, 8th of March 2020

Second Sunday of Lent

***Growing Life-changing Communities who
Love, Learn & Serve in Jesus Christ.***

Worship today

Malvern Hill, 9 am
Burwood, 10 am
Burwood 6 pm

Beverly Matthews and Stephen Matthews
Beverly Matthews
Kathryn Lynch

FOR
God
so
loved
the world
that he gave his only begotten
son so that whosoever believeth
in him
shall
not
perish
but
have
eternal
life
John 3:16

Worship next Sunday

Malvern Hill 9 am
Burwood 10 am
Burwood 6 pm

Andrew Buchan and Stephen Matthews
Hithaiyishi Parndigamage and Stephen Matthews
TBA

Welcome all, especially visitors.

***We count it a privilege and a blessing to worship with you today.
If you come as a visitor, we hope you will leave as a friend.***

Let us pray for:

1. We pray for all who know special need – those who are ill or facing treatment – we remember Joy, Sam, Margaret and others. We also remember those in Aged care: Patricia, Elsie, Dawn, Beryl Bolton, Beryl Burns, Val Steward and Ruth.
2. We pray for all impacted by the Coronavirus. We pray for compassion and discernment over fear.
3. Pray for our Preschool and the English Conversation Ministries.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Today – Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18 (p. 62)

Psalms 2 (p. 424-5)

2 Peter 1:16-21 (p. 983-4)

Matthew 17:1-9 (p. 798)

Next Week 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (2)

Psalms 32 (p. 440)

Romans 5:12-19 (p. 917)

Matthew 4:1-11 (p. 785)

Malvern Hill

Congregational Lunch:

All members of the congregation are welcome to come along to the Strand Cafe for lunch as we talk about sharing ministry with children and families at Malvern Hill. After morning tea, we can walk/car pool as needed to the cafe for lunch around 11:30am on Sunday, 15 March.

Invitation to Creative

Lenten Practice:

You are invited to creatively contribute ANY form of artwork relating to ONE of the following Stations of the Cross, to be dropped off at Burwood Church no later than Palm Sunday (5 April) and displayed in Burwood UC during Holy Week! Works can be painting, drawing, sculpture, poetry, music, ANYTHING God inspires you to create! Please speak to Rev. Beverly no later than Sunday, 23 Feb, to volunteer! *With God, all things are possible! You can do it!*

Stations:

1. Jesus is Condemned to die (Mark 15:1-15, Matthew 27:23-31, Luke 23:13-25, John 19:1-16)
2. Jesus Carries His Cross (Matthew 27:31-33, Mark 15:20-22, Luke 23:26-32, John 19: 5, 14-17)
3. Jesus Meets His Mother (John 19:25-27 (Jesus speaks to his mother from the cross.))
4. Jesus Falls and Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26)
5. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (Luke 23: 26-31)
6. Jesus is Stripped (John 19:23-24 - Division of Jesus' clothes – Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34)
7. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross (Bible Reference – Jesus is

crucified – Matthew 27: 35-44; Mark 15: 24-32; Luke 23:33-43; John 19: 18-23)

8. Jesus Dies on the Cross (Matthew 27: 45-56; Mark 15: 33-41; Luke 23: 44-49 ; John 19: 28-37)

9. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross (Matthew 27: 57-58; Mark 15: 42-46a; Luke 23: 50-53a; John 19: 31- 37)

10. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb (Matthew 27: 57-65; Mark 15: 46-47; Luke 23: 50-56; John 19: 38-42)

11. Jesus is Raised to Life (Matthew 28: 1-10; Mark 16: 1-8 (9-15 not included in the earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses); Luke 24: 1-12; John 20: 1-18)

12. Jesus is Seen on the Road (Luke 24:13-25)

Introduction to **EMBROIDERY**

Japanese Boro

Lead by Wendy Cross.

Tuesday Mornings, 9.30-10.30am.
Fellowship Hall at Burwood

Introduction to **DRAWING**

Lead by Rev Beverly.

Thursday Mornings, 9.30-10.30am.
Fellowship Hall at Burwood.

Contact Details

Church Office:

Hithaiyishi Parndigamage (**Office and Property Administration**)

134A Burwood Rd, Burwood. 2134

Tel: (02) 9744 9635

bcuca001@tpg.com.au

Normal Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am-2.30pm. New hours TBA

Minister of the Word/Team Leader:

Rev. Stephen Matthews

Mobile: 04 3337 3352 or 9744 9635

stephenmatthewsbcuca@gmail.com

Minister of the Word/Family Ministry

Rev. Beverly Matthews

Mobile: 04 3045 1141 or 9744 9635

beverlymatthewsbcuca@gmail.com

Ministry Worker Burwood Evening:

and Policy/EMR Support: Kathryn Lynch:

kathrynlynchbcuca@gmail.com

Chinese Christian Cultural Worker:

Sophie Sun sophiesunbcuca@gmail.com

Organists:

Burwood: David Powell

Malvern Hill: Phillipa Knight

Preschool Office:

134A Burwood Road, Burwood 2134

Tel: 9744 3469 Fax: 9747 0183

burkind@bigpond.com.au

Director: Simita Shukula

Office Administration: Louisa Chan

Office Bearers for Burwood

Croydon Church Council

Chair: Craig Corby chairbcuca@gmail.com

Secretary: Ian Goff

secretarybcuca@gmail.com

Treasurer: Richard Cross

treasurerbcuca@gmail.com

Chair, Preschool Board: Wendy Cross

If in need of a Justice of the Peace,
please speak to

Vera Ryan or Valma Tavaga