

Prayer for Easter Week 5:

Saving God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself, help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through him who died for us and rose again and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

MARMINGATHA Stories to Inspire



WEEK ENDING 17 MAY

WINDOWS OF FAITH

St David's Doncaster

The Reverend Judy Frost shares with us the following: Our window's at St David's Doncaster East look out on to the top end of Doncaster Rd and the corner of Tunstall Rd – as people wait to go around the corner to shop at Tunstall square they sit in cars and look down to the parish entrance windows. As a visual reminder of Easter and the journey of faith, I have been updating the window display – with one for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. People using the bus stop out the front of the church have been seen coming down to read the Covid-19 prayer and to look at the images. A couple of people passing have given the thumbs up when I have made changes and on Palm Sunday quite a few car toots from locals acknowledging that while the church doors may be closed our Spirit rests in Christ Jesus.



The Reverend Shane Hubner shares with us the following: At St Peter's, Box Hill we have been learning how to livestream our main Eucharist service and after three weeks now

DREAM STITCHES MINISTRY

St Peter's Box Hill

of trial and error feel we have the technology under control and have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback of parishioners and those watching from farther afield. While that has been great, our biggest delight has been in the 'Dream Stitches' ministry, a refugee and migrant women's sewing program, which has been able to make and donate 700 face masks to the Alfred hospital. Other parishioners have been busy making medical scrubs for the organisation [Rona Scrubs](#). We have also been able to feed around 80 people per week from donated goods. Thanks be to God for small mercies and silver linings.



YOUNG ADULTS TEACHING US

Ormond Anglican

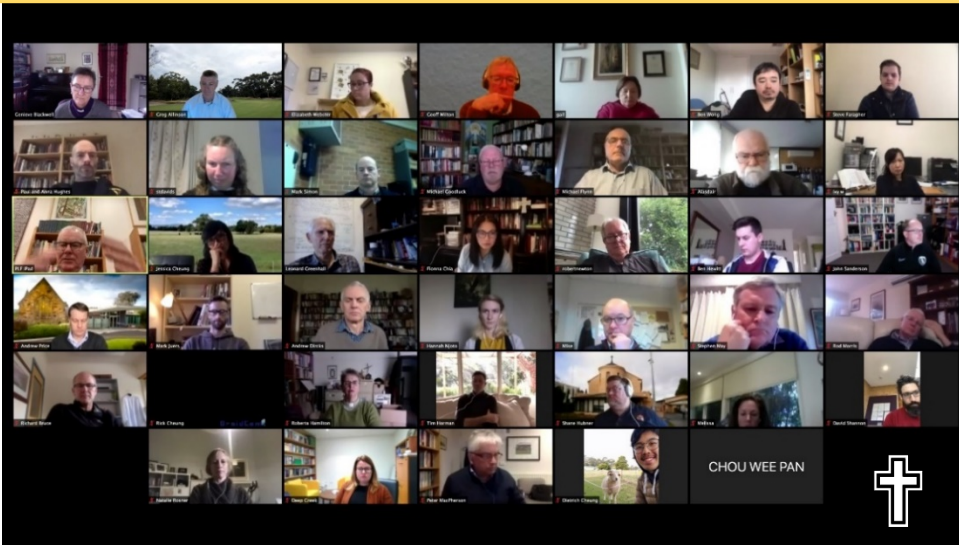
The Reverend Kevin Pedersen shares with us the following: The closure of our Churches to public worship has uncovered a skill set in some of our young adults we never knew was there! We decided to live-stream from week one and our Assistant Sam Crane got together a small team to see if we could make it happen. On the way we have learned much, particularly about the capacity of some of our young adults to work with the technology required and lead change. This has been one of the most encouraging parts of the whole Covid-19 experience for me. We intend to keep on live streaming right through until we can gather as three congregations again. And after that? Well, I think we will take the lessons learned in this season and make good use of them then!



TALKING TO THE ARCHBISHOP

Kew Archdeaconry

Archdeacon Greg Allinson and members of the Kew Archdeaconry dialled in on Wednesday to share in conversation with the Archbishop. He asked 'what are we going to take out of our experience of this crisis which will help inform and shape our ministry into the future?' This gave the opportunity to share encouragements, challenges and insights.



SHOVEL READY

St John's Bentleigh

The Reverend David Powys shares with us the following: St John's has been planning to upgrade its buildings for decades, and the shutdown has provided an unexpected but welcome window of opportunity. The hall asbestos roof has been replaced with Colourbond. The furnishings from the worship area have been moved to the hall to allow a complete internal repaint, carpeting of all floors, and an audio-visual system rework. Lockdown has provided opportunity to undertake key preparatory works for a 2021 building program of further works. In the coming weeks it is hoped to remove the hall stage, adjust an odd corner in that hall to free up space for a proposed new kitchen and bathroom, replace the badly worn timber floor in that building, and possibly even replace very inefficient louvre windows – all whilst our community hall users are away. Critical will be gaining a permit quickly. In our narthex, lighting has been upgraded and ugly old radiators removed in preparation for painting.

The video service 'notices' have included clips of the building works, which has meant that all can participate in the joy of seeing the buildings transformed. It was a steep learning curve producing a weekly recorded service, and we are embarking on our ninth this week. Music and readings have been recorded at various times, so 'continuity' has been difficult, but the offerings have nevertheless been widely appreciated, including by parishioners receiving the service on a USB stick. We have managed two Holy Communion services with communion being administered at front doors. A weekly 'Care Bulletin' has sought to maintain communication, and Parish Council and others are each making regular contact with allocated individuals on our roll. There have been blessings in adversity at St John's Bentleigh.

Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop

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