



uniting  
church  
Orange

27th May 2020

OUR BUILDING  
IS CLOSED.

THE CHURCH  
IS NOT.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
HELP US SERVE  
GET CONNECTED

# Distant Socialising

## *A Letter from Rev Andrew*

Readings for Sunday 31st May: *The Day of Pentecost*  
Acts 2:1-21, Ps 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Cor 12:3b-13 & John 7:37-39

### *National Reconciliation Week*

National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June) is an annual celebration that builds upon the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples of all cultures in these lands now called Australia. During National Reconciliation Week all Australians are invited to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, to share that knowledge and help us grow as a nation.

In 2018 our Church Council made a commitment to *Acknowledge Country* at the start of services. At the time I promised that I would give some information about why the Uniting Church considers it an important aspect of our gathering. My apologies that it has taken so long.

I have attached a document to this week's email which goes into some depth about why we should acknowledge country, but in brief, at the heart of it is respect, acknowledgment of history and a hope for reconciliation of people created lovingly by God.

The practice of the Acknowledgment of Country is ancient. For thousands of years the protocols of welcoming visitors from other lands and country has been practiced within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. If you were crossing into someone else's country, it was a requirement to send a request to the land's people to be granted permission to enter and be offered safe passage and protection. This in turn required the visitor to acknowledge, adhere to and respect the rules of the country that was being entered.

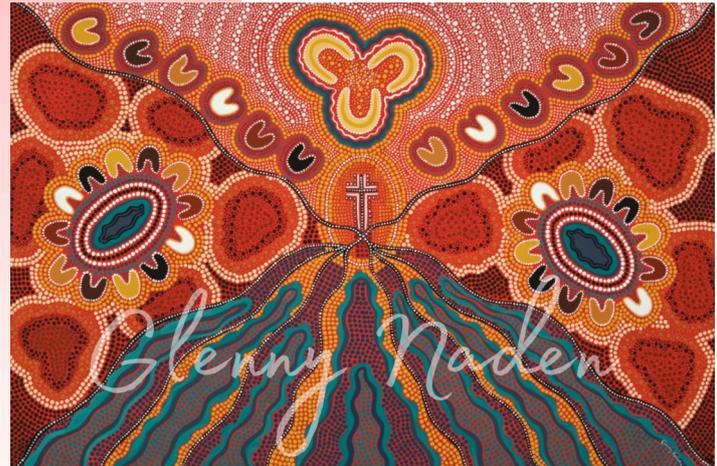
When we recognise that we share land and space that has been the home of others for millennia we recognise that this ancient practice has something to say to us today about how we walk on this land.

As followers of the Prince of Peace, and members of the Uniting Church, we are encouraged to listen deeply for what it means to walk together, First and Second Peoples, to lament the past and to seek to be a healing community, characterised by the love of Christ. Acknowledgement is an important expression of:

- the covenant which the Uniting Church in Australia has with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)
- the Preamble to our Uniting Church in Australia Constitution, and
- the affirmation by the 15th Assembly in 2018 of Aboriginal and Islander Australians as sovereign peoples in this land

### ***An Acknowledgement of Country at Pentecost***

***The Ancient of Days breathed life into this Land and her Peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the Wiradjuri People have blessed this place through their care and concern. We pay our respects to their Elders and Leaders, past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.***



'So Loved' by Aunty Glenny Naden

One of the artworks presented in the book ['Our Mob God's'](#)

### **Contact Details**

Due to the current health situation, the church office will no longer be open to the public.

The care and administration of the church will continue, so if you want to contact us feel free to do so by phone or email.

#### Church Office

T: (02) 6362 5788

E: [ucorange@tpg.com.au](mailto:ucorange@tpg.com.au)

Rev Andrew Cunningham

T: (02) 6362 1140

E: [andrewc@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:andrewc@nswact.uca.org.au)

W: [orangeunitingchurch.org](http://orangeunitingchurch.org)

Find us on

YouTube

### Hot Meals Update from Pam Green

*It was identified last week that there is a need for hygiene articles, and particularly feminine products.*

*If anyone is in a position to donate these items specifically, so we can make up some packs to be available, it would be appreciated.*

*Also, we have had a few of our members make slices etc for sweets. If anyone can help, by making a slice or small cakes etc, I know our clients would be grateful for that little something extra.*

*If you are also in need of a hot meal please contact Pam on 0408 659 510.*

*If there is anyone who would like to consider helping, either by **volunteering to help serve or donating funds** to keep this project afloat we would be grateful.*

Donations can be made to the following account:

A/C Name: Orange Uniting Church BSB: 634 634, Account No: 100 035 363, Reference - Hot Meals

Contacts are Pam Green, Bev Rankin, Christine Hawke, Elaine Eddy and Nancy and Bob Nash.

### A New Chaplain for Kinross Wolaroi School

I am very pleased to let you know that Kinross Wolaroi School have appointed a new chaplain!

Reverend Dr Rosalie Clarke will start at the start of Term 3 2020 after having been ordained on Friday the 5th of June 2020. She is currently serving at Humpty Doo (near Darwin) and has also served in Uniting Church communities in Sydney and Terrigal NSW and the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.



Rev Dr Rosalie Clarke

### Volunteers Needed to Keep the Hall Clean

As you may be aware the church buildings and halls are being used very infrequently at present, and as a result of this, and the loss of income due to the COVID 19 situation, we have unfortunately stopped employing our cleaner Wayne, but we still need to do some cleaning in the hall (not the church at present as it is a work site).

**Would you be willing to give some time to go on a roster to do some of that cleaning?** Maybe you could put up your hand as an individual and work with someone else (observing social distancing), or maybe as a family or couple you would put up your hand to take a turn. Please email me, or the office, if you would be willing to help maintain our facilities and help save some money.

### Preliminary Budget

I also want to remind you to think and pray about the preliminary budget that you received last week.

**Please take time to study it and think and pray about this aspect of church life. If you have any questions or comments that we can answer in a future mailing, please email them to the office so that we can consider these things and respond as appropriate.** We intend to vote on this budget before the end of June, and we will advise you how that vote will take place in the current context.

### New Seating at the Anson Street Church?

The Resources Team and the Church Council have decided to consider replacing our pews with new seats. The current pews have been in place for 40 years (with thanks to the expertise of Merv Wilkie!)



The reasons behind this consideration are as follows: 1) Our property team reports that the pews are increasingly needing repairs and that this is likely to increase in the near future; 2) Chairs will suit the versatility that we are hoping to achieve as we refurbish the church in the coming year; and 3) given the current social distancing guidelines which are predicted to last for many months, even after a return to the buildings, it will greatly aid our ability to social distance with the versatility of chairs.

The chairs that we are considering are 50cm wide, and when linked in rows act like pews as they sit flush together. This will allow for people of all shapes and sizes to feel comfortable, and will also allow for people to squeeze up close in a large

service (such as a funeral) and maximise occupancy. They can also be rearranged for smaller gatherings.

I attach the brochure for the chairs, and invite you, if you wish, to make arrangements to try out our sample at the church centre.

We value your feedback and input around this decision. Just email me, or the office, and we can arrange for socially distant access.

### Sunday Worship

Worship this Sunday will again be using the YouTube channel and Zoom (the same 'meeting invite' as recent Sundays). Please get in touch, and someone will be happy to talk you through how get connected. You can also phone into Zoom gatherings if you don't have a device. Just ask!

God bless, and keep in touch.

### Giving Direct

Confidential giving via electronic banking can be used for either a regular payment or one-off payment from your bank account to make your offering.

**Account Name: Giving Direct – Orange UC**

**BSB: 634 634**

**Account Number: 100046973**

- all deposits made to this account are taken as offering payments.

- do not use this account for any other church related deposits.