



# The VINES Uniting Church

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THE GRAPEVINE 27/13/2022

## LENT #4: Experiencing the Lord.

### Romans 12:1-3 & 9 -13

Our Availability Lenten Studies this week focuses on Robert Wicks words;

**“Experiencing the Lord is a goal in life:  
as a matter of fact, it is the only goal.”**

For many people having faith is one of many goals. A definition of a goal is “the object of a person’s ambition or effort; an aim or desired result.”

I think experiencing the Lord is more than a goal to be achieved. Isn’t it a constant state of being? Maybe the quote needs to say that experiencing the Lord is our purpose? After all, purpose reflects the central motivating aims of your life — a reason to get out of bed. Purpose speaks of an ongoing process, while goals are achievable and therefore to be ticked off the “bucket list”.

### Romans 12:2

***<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

Nowhere in this reading is there a reference to having achieved transformation. In fact, the reading doesn’t say our “renewal” is a one-off event. If our purpose is to experience the Lord, and life constantly changes, then how we interact with God, self and others also has to change. Not many houses last 50 – 90 years without ongoing work, repairs, renewal and that is like our faith and experience of the Lord. It needs repair and renovation.

So maybe we could say that “Renewing our minds and syncing that with God is our purpose.” This is an ongoing effort, because as we age and deal with the griefs and losses of life our experience of God’s love in the midst of our lives needs to continually be renewed.

Peace Rev DJPrior

❖ **OUR VISION:**

*To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.*

❖ **OUR MISSION:**

*To reach out and reflect God's Love –  
connecting others to Christ.*

## **Easter Services at the Vines:**

- ✝ Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April: *The Maundy Thursday service this year will run from 7:00pm until about 8:00pm. It will consist of some readings, some music, and an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer. After the service, the church will remain open until 9:00pm for anyone who wishes to sit and be still for a little while longer.*
- ✝ Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April: *Good Friday service 9.30 am*
- ✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April: *Easter Sunday 9.30 am*



## **GROUPS & DATES for LENTEN STUDIES:**

### **THURSDAY 4-5PM**

LEADER: Rev DJPrior  
WHERE: The Vines UC

**DATES:**

Wk #4 31 March  
Wk #5 07 April

**THEMES:**

EXPERIENCING THE LORD  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD



Fiona Nockels is also holding a Lenten Study group for women in her home on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.

**A date for your diaries:**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A Congregational meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. You are all welcome to attend.

**HOME ALONERS MEETING - TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022.**

We will be meeting at the **BRIGHTON METRO HOTEL.**

on the corner Sturt and Brighton Roads.

Please meet in the car park at the Hotel around 12.15 pm.

Our lunch booking is for 12.30 pm.

RSVP to Bob Manson 8382 7242

or Bob Stone 0439 817 613 by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April

to enable confirmation of booking/ numbers at venue.

**FOOD PARCEL MINISTRY**

Thank you for your continued support for this ministry.

With daylight saving coming to a close and Autumn being upon us, this week we need the following items:

Cereal,

Soup

Tinned Baked Beans

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Fish

Toiletries.

Or a donation marked "Food Parcel Ministry"

Thank you again and may God bless you

Leon and the Pastoral Team

**Next week:**

**LENTEN STUDIES**

**Wk #5      3<sup>rd</sup> April      *IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD***

**LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES**

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+vines+uniting+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church)

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

**Remember OUR key MESSAGE:**

***Connect with others and CHOOSE LIFE***

***'Cos to Grow stronger through COVID***

***We have to pass on God's love.***



**Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church**

Rev. David Prior	<b>Minister/Elders' Convenor</b>	0403 991 475
Lynn Ellison	Small Groups Coordinator	
	Church Council Chairperson	0431 995 480
Colleen Farmer	Administrator	0430 646 844
Leon Magrin	Mission & Outreach /	
	Food Parcel Ministry	8322 3658
David McAvenna	Worship Team	8322 7154
Neil Satterley	Church Treasurer	0404 028 827

**Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer**

by 12 noon Wednesday

[poppy@adam.com.au](mailto:poppy@adam.com.au)