



The VINES Uniting Church

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Rev. David Prior

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THE GRAPEVINE 3/4/2022

LENT #5: In the presence of The Lord

1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-12

Over the last 2 months we have focussed on being Available to God, self and others. Using chapters from Robert Wicks' book entitled Availability: "the challenge and the gift of being present"; his focus being that Christian self-awareness shapes our capacity to serve. Being in relationship and having compassion for others emerges out of our own self compassion, which is shaped by the love of God planted within us. Roberts adds that;

"Availability is a great gift; it is a gift to behold, a gift to cherish, a gift to share. Yet, as in any living gift, availability must be nurtured if it is to thrive and be a continual source of joy... the satisfaction is in knowing that if we continually try to be open to God, we will never lose it." (p 130)

Being open to God through relationships and experiences is reinforced through prayer, which weaves God, self and others into a sacred space, where we can discover a deeper faith and compassion. Working on our inner man or woman is not wasted, because life is unpredictable and keeps changing, meaning that our faith is being tested and asked questions all the time.

The practice of prayer, bringing all of life to God, allows our faith to grow and flourish; because to remain static, cut off, ignoring the complexity of life, is like getting stuck in a bowling ball alley gutter or a repetitive rut.

We are on the cusp of Easter, when we remember that faith and love come at a cost for us all.

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 14th 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 15th April:**
Good Friday service 9.30 am

✝ **Sunday 18th April:**
Easter Sunday 9.30 am



“FRIDAY FRIENDS” is a new initiative to offer people in our community an opportunity for Coffee, Conversation and Company here at the church. This is open to all. However, for this to be successful, we need our church people to see this as a ministry and to come and bring a friend or neighbour, or to simply offer friendship to those who are alone. A voluntary gold coin donation will help with costs.

The first one will be **Friday April 22nd, 10am-11.30 am.** After that it will be once a month. Please speak to Marj if you have any questions.



A date for your diaries:

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

HOME ALONERS MEETING - TUESDAY 5th 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 3rd 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:
PALM SUNDAY



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

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	Minister/Elders' Convenor	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

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