

Prayer of the week:

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire

WEEK ENDING 13 SEPTEMBER 2020



EXTROVERTS GET CREATIVE

St Augustine's Moreland

We celebrated St Augustine's Day on the 30th of August and while it was a far cry from what I had planned we were able to make the most of our digital space to connect with people. Every year we use St Augustine's day to think about what God is doing in and through us as a church, we thank God for our community and think about our values and goals. We had often had brunch church, sharing a meal together and I had planned for 2020 to have a good old church picnic, but of course then along came COVID19. After the first lockdown I had hoped that we might see St Augustine's day as a day to restart our physical meeting together again, but alas along came Stage 4 lockdown. As an extrovert and someone who loves people and community there was real grief in not being able to gather with the church physically to celebrate together but together with our Children's Worker Simone Turnbull, I came up with a few new things! Each week we do a livestream to our church YouTube channel and so we used that 'live' factor to our advantage and used the website **Slido** to incorporate interactive elements! We did a quiz all about St Augustine and we saw the results right immediately!



St. Augustine's Moreland Anglican Church

31 August at 10:00 · 🌐

This week we are encouraging you to wear a different colour each to day to reflect the things we as Christians are to put on from Colossians 3.

Monday - Red - Compassion

Tuesday - Yellow/Orange - Kindness

Wednesday - Green - Humility

Thursday - Blue - Gentleness

Friday - Pink/Purple - Patience

Share your photos of your coloured outfits on our page or with your small group and pray that God would help you put on the virtue and show it in your actions!

And dont forget Forgiveness and Love which bind it all together



What words would you use to describe our Church, St Augustines and what it means to you?

Connection
Fun, community
Together with God.
Friends & caring belonging
Loving prayerful
Welcoming
Caring
Together Safe Fun for kids
Important
Godly
Family

We reflected on what we were thankful for and what our church meant to us, and all these things popped up on the screen in a word cloud! We gathered prayer points in a word cloud too, and we all wanted an end to the pandemic! For the sermon we looked at putting off the old self and putting on the new self from Colossians 3 and we followed up Sunday with a challenge to wear a different colour each day to reflect a different virtue we are to put on. We shared our outfits on our small group WhatsApp groups or church Facebook page! It's been a great way to remember our new identity in Jesus across the week and to ask God for much needed patience, gentleness, kindness, compassion and humility in this difficult season! This season is forcing us to be creative in how we connect with each other, whether it be with a postcard sent by snail mail or an interactive online event, we have lots to grieve but lots to be thankful for and it was great to see how people connected!

- The Reverend Angela Cook

ONLINE STRATEGY BEARING FRUIT

All Saints Ascot Vale

At All Saints Ascot Vale, we have not let the lockdowns slow us down in areas where we can continue to our core callings to meet for worship and fellowship, and to pursue our strategic plan. We have been meeting on Sundays for Morning Prayer services using Zoom, with the majority of the congregation staying for an opportunity to catch up after the service in breakout rooms. We have also just used the sermon recorded by Robyn Andreo-Boosey on sexism and the prevention of violence against women, which was very well received.

We have continued in the elements of our strategic plan that are able to be carried out online, primarily in the areas of discipleship and the development of leaders for the future. This has been taken place through Zoom small groups, adult Sunday Schools, online theology classes and mentoring. This is already bearing fruit, with a young adult who joined our church community through Alpha early last year is now preparing for starting theological studies next year by reading through the entire bible, whilst participating in small group and the Adult Sunday School.

- The Reverend Andrew Esnouf

BASKETS OF GENEROSITY

City On A Hill

The face masks may make it look like a robbery, but this is actually 'Operation Room Service'. Every Tuesday, a team from City on a Hill Melbourne, Many Rooms (City on a Hill's Mercy Ministry) and 7 baskets (a catering business & café owned by a church member) have prepared, packed and delivered 300 meals to the homeless and displaced of Melbourne being housed in hotels for the 6-week Stage 4 lockdown'.

- The Reverend
Andy Pearce



FATHER'S DAY

ADF Chaplaincy

Dad's didn't miss out on this special day thanks to support from RSL Victoria. Chocolates & cards were organised and distributed amongst task group members. The ADF have laptops & iPads and were able to use those to connect with family. Please see **this video** of how the Australian Defence Force spent Father's Day.

- The Reverend
John Raika

SPEAK UP

St John's Bentleigh

As has been reported over the last few days, I was not alone in being concerned about aspects of the Roadmap announced on Sunday 6 September. In response, early the next day, I wrote a careful and courteous email to my local member of State Parliament. The email was from me as a citizen, rather than as a vicar or minister of religion.

To my surprise I received a phone call within a couple of hours, not from the member, but from one of his staff. She asked me questions about what I had written and about related matters.

In the conversation I made reference to my local role, which gave rise to further enquiry and conversation, clearly arising from issues raised with the member by others. My sense was that my member was keen to hear what his constituents were thinking and experiencing, and that he intended for such information to shape his contribution within caucus meetings. I would encourage others to 'speak up', because other members will also be receptive too.

-The Reverend
David Powys

THREE STORIES

St Columb's Hawthorn

Online observation - Views for our on-line worship initially peaked around Easter and began to slightly ease off as lockdown restrictions reduced. Since stage 4 lockdowns began I have been surprised that views have grown between 10-15%. What is interesting is the increasing number of views that occur outside of Sundays even up to a month after a service was first published online. Videos of worship has answered the old questions of what the best time is to run our services!

Ministry to the homeless - It has surprised me that our parish was keen to start a new ministry in the middle of the current pandemic but by patterning with an existing organisation a fair number of our people are now involved in providing food for the homeless who are required to live in temporary accommodation in our area during this lockdown period. The opportunity to help others is helping us with our own struggles under isolation.

Nursing homes - Of course we have not been able to provide regular services at our local aged care facilities during pandemic restrictions. The facilities themselves have been in crisis mode with Covid infections compounding the staff shortages brought on by extra health precautions. Our local aged care facilities lack both the IT infrastructure and staff time to deal with online services so we started an experiment of recording videos of devotional services for the aged and delivering them to the aged care facilities on DVDs. The format has so far been warmly received by activity coordinators and carers who are acutely aware of how residents have been hungering for spiritual resources provided by people they already know and trust during this long period of isolation.

- The Reverend *Mike Flynn*

Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop

*Please keep sending your stories to inspire...
+Genieve*