



## PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 57 AUGUST 2020

### STRUGGLES AND JOY

In the last few weeks, we have been following the family line of Abraham; the division between the offspring of Hagar and Sarah, that is Ismael and Isaac, Isaac's marriage to Rebekah, them having twin boys, Esau and Jacob and the rivalry between the two. Birthrights and priorities, favour and abandonment.

Throughout the unfolding of Abraham's lineage, we see and are told of God's journeying with, God hearing the cries of those in anguish and God's presence and attentiveness, even with those who have been deceitful and treacherous.

It seems to me that, particularly in our Western way of thinking, that many of us have a perception of God as only being with the good and the righteous. Perhaps it has come about because we attribute blessings from God on the Chosen and therefore God is not present with the perpetrators of evil. It can be perceived as very black and white, good versus evil type understanding of God.

What if we can consider that we all have the potential for good and evil, kindness and selfishness, altruism or egoism? That we all have the potential to push along what we think is for the best, despite God's assurances. We all have the capacity within us to give love or give hate.



In Genesis 29 this week the story continues with more deception. Jacob loves Rachel, Jacob and Laban, Rachel's father and kinfolk of Jacob, swear an oath, make a covenant that if he serves Laban for seven years then he can have Rachel's hand in marriage. After seven years of work by Jacob, fulfilling his side of the agreement, Laban slips his elder daughter into the tent and by morning light it is event that Jacob has laid with Leah, not Rachel and she is now his wife. As Jacob had deceived his brother in the past, now deception was played out on him.

The Scriptures show us stories of real people, not Hollywood picture-perfect heroes and heroines, but people with real fears and faults. We read of their struggles as well as their joys and their hopes. In each story we are reminded over and over again that God is in the midst of their lives, hearing their cries, seeing their suffering, and feeling their emotions with them.

As we continue in this COVID-19 period of uncertainty where many are suffering and feeling anxious about this new experience of life be assured that God is with us. God who is not only present in the joys and blessings of life but also in the messy, unpredictable times of life. Just as he was with those in ancient times, God is still with us today. God bless you.

Rev Linda Young

An image from the MRP service last week – from the story of Jacob after his dream of the ladder and angels. Be sure to check the Partnership website at <https://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au/worship-services> for a link to the weekly church service videos. Some partnership members have been enjoying a chat either by phone or online at 10.30am on Sunday mornings. Please contact the ministry team if you wish to join in this conversation.

## LECTIONARY Readings Year A

### Ordinary Sundays after Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Color	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
2 August	Ord Sun 18	G	Genesis 32:22-31	17:1-7, 15	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
9 August	Ord Sun 19	G	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
16 August	Ord Sun 20	G	Genesis 45:1-15	133	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
23 August	Ord Sun 21	G	Exodus 1:8 to 2:10	124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
30 August	Ord Sun 22	G	Exodus 3:1-15	105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
6 Sept	Ord Sun 23	G	Exodus 12:1-14	149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20

Colours: P – purple

W – white

G – green

R - Red

### PARENTING EXPERT

A recent review (July 18<sup>th</sup> "AGE") of the contribution of psychologist Steve Biddulph to advice for parents (and grandparents?) revealed some interesting insights: (*Summarised*)

To quote – "he thinks that rich children are often emotionally deprived. —Some parents don't really raise their children they just manage them. This is particularly a feature of affluent parents. If I was a child in Australia now, I would want to be born in the middle.'

---If you're born into a poor family, the stress on parents makes life very difficult, but the children of the wealthy face a different kind of stress. There's an odd combination of high expectation but low emotional connection. Parenting has been handed over to others. Some children are in after-school care till 9pm and others are sent to boarding schools even when their homes are nearby.

Steve has sold millions of books. If you're born in the middle, income wise, life tends to be more nurturing and normal. Parents are much more likely to come home in time to kick a ball and they really want to be with their children. But financial pressure on the middle tier is changing. It is very difficult to live on one wage. In a world that's vastly more prosperous than the 1950s, there are very strong headwinds.

We are still thawing out from a culture which frowned upon shows of affection.

It's important to tell your children that you love them.

One of his first books, "Raising boys" stated that in 1994 fathers spent an average of eight minutes a day with their kids. By 2010 that figure had doubled. The whole profile of fatherhood has shifted.

One of the concluding remarks in this particular article, mentioned that children used to be part of the team, of the family. Now they are at the center (not necessarily a good thing!)

Biddulph has in recent times been working to support refugees and to fight climate change.

Like thousands of other adults, he marched in support of the student rally- Strike Against Climate Change. The kids are justifiably scared. They study science and they know all about climate change. We adults can't abandon them. He continued – "the kids were doing exactly what you would hope young people would do - getting involved in democracy, instead of being disenfranchised and alienated. "

(from Wendy Hebbard)

## Line by line

A little while ago, I was stomping around the house in a state of righteous anger. I had been WRONGED!!!! In my head, as I went about my business, I was composing a line-by-line rebuttal of the one who had dared to cross me....boy, were they in for a smackdown! Who did they think they were?!?! I didn't need to look at my Fitbit to know that my heart was way over its 'resting' rate.

Then.... a *ping* on my phone. A message had come, out of the blue, from a dear friend. It contained good wishes for my week, and.... this...

### The Place Where We Are Right

From the place where we are right  
Flowers will never grow  
In the spring.

The place where we are right  
Is hard and trampled  
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves  
Dig up the world  
Like a mole, a plow.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
Where the ruined  
House once stood.

by Yehuda Amichai

... and she included this photograph:



Well, that completely stopped me in my tracks. *From the place where we are right*...How did she know? Words that needed to be dropped into my life right at the moment. I might've cried a little bit. And sat very quietly for a moment or two. We chatted briefly via text message, and I told her how important her words had been to me, and I thanked her. Then, while looking at the photo and reading her words, a poem of my own began to form, and over the day, as I went about my business, it became this:

### In the centre

In the centre

there is a gemstone  
a teardrop  
a mirror  
a gift

Can you find  
the place  
to  
unfurl  
in offering  
or  
enfold  
in gratitude?

The answer comes  
only as a listening  
a splendour  
a whisper  
a shift

in the centre.

My heart had been returned to where it belonged. I decided it was a better result from my day than the line-by-line work I'd envisaged. I hope God keeps ploughing the hard soil of my life with doubts and loves. I hope I will always have people around me who can remind me of who I am. I hope we can all keep hearing the whispers whenever and however they come.

Rev Annette Buckley

Tess and Brooklyn; pet cat; Jiggy and friends



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	<h1>August 2020</h1> <p>AB – Annette; PC – Peter; LY – Linda* Do you have more online (or face-to-face) events planned? – let Robyn know for September edition of PiP</p>				1
10.30am Zoom Chat AB						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.30am Zoom Chat AB	4.30pm Zoom chat PC	10am Zoom chat LY			11am Zoom chat AB 6.30pm Fish'n'Chips (Kyneton via Zoom)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10.30am Zoom Chat AB	4.30pm Zoom chat PC	10am Zoom chat LY			11am Zoom chat AB	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10.30am Zoom Chat AB	4.30pm Zoom chat PC	10am Zoom chat LY			11am Zoom chat AB 6.30pm Fish'n'Chips (Kyneton via Zoom)	PIP items due tomorrow!
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10.30am Zoom Chat AB	4.30pm Zoom chat PC	10am Zoom chat LY			11am Zoom chat AB	

\*The ministry team are available to assist you in staying connected to your church family. Please contact the minister who is available at the time that suits you, so that you can be given the appropriate link to participate: Annette – Friday and Sunday, Peter – Monday, Linda – Tuesdays.

## Where were we five years ago?

In a recent 'catch-up-on-unread-Crosslight' session – this 2015 article was re-discovered. A reminder of where we came from and the shared vision...

# Harvesting hope

ROS MARSDEN

leaves, revitalising people and churches being regenerated and renewed...  
the Holy Spirit that continues to regenerate the Church.

So have any churches started sprouting green leaves? "Absolutely," Rev Rose Broadstock, Mission Development Strategist for the presbytery, enthuses. "Part of our strategy is to develop 'Regeneration' ministers who support congregations developing fresh expressions of church.

"A great example is the work done by our 12 churches in the Macedon Ranges. Representatives from all congregations came together regularly over the course of a year to workshop, talk, imagine, argue and laugh over coffee and food to create a shared vision and shared values. They were then able to envisage how to share three 'Regeneration' ministers who will help them imagine ways of being Church that respond to the culture and needs of their local communities. On Sunday 1 March at Kyneton Uniting Church, 155 people of all ages representing the 12 congregations gathered for joyful worship to celebrate all they had accomplished."

The Macedon model continues to flourish. Ideas for new models of mission include a spirituality centre, a community garden shared with asylum seekers, worship in cafes and community meals in op shops. The ministers and the presbytery will support the development of these ideas through training, coaching, the opportunity to belong to a Pioneering Learning Community, and some small seeding grants for the chosen new initiatives.

APRIL 15 - CROSSLIGHT  
8:11 AM - 11:58 AM

## Have you considered....?

that you could still 'meet' in your regular groups, even while we are taking as much care as possible of our vulnerable people? UCAF, Muffin 'n' More, Cuppas @ Cookies, Friday lunches.... all of these groups could be facilitated online. No, it won't be the same as being together and sharing a meal or a coffee. But it is still possible to gather together, and the ministry team is more than happy to facilitate groups and walk people through the processes. Our Kyneton Fish & Chip worship has been going for a few weeks, and we're all enjoying connecting up and having conversations together – and anyone can join in from anywhere around the Partnership! Ask one of the ministry team about how we might help your congregation in this way.

ZOOM

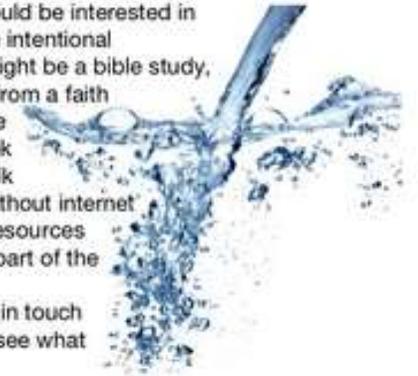
ZOOM

ZOOM...

going deeper...

Our new way of worshipping on Sunday mornings has led to some realisations and some spin-off ideas. Some of us have been gathering online to chat after church, and it has raised the question of whether there are people who would be interested in getting together 'virtually' to have intentional conversations about faith. This might be a bible study, or a group that looks at daily life from a faith perspective, or examines an issue of interest, or is a theological book group...what would you like to talk about? We can include people without internet access; most of the online chat resources allow people to phone in and be part of the conversation.

If you'd be interested, please get in touch with the ministry team, and we'll see what bubbles up...from the deep!



## Did you know?

Did you know you can easily download and watch our Partnership worship videos? You can then watch a segment or even the whole video any time that suits. All you need to do is:

1. Download a YouTube downloader from your computer's "play store" or "app store". There are many free ones available. I use a program called "Any Video Converter". It has no ads or other "bloatware" that many free software has. Just go to [https://www.any-video-converter.com/products/for\\_video\\_free/](https://www.any-video-converter.com/products/for_video_free/) and click on the "Free Download" button. Follow the installation instructions.
2. Open your YouTube downloader. Copy the video link that I sent you for the video you want to download.
3. Click on the "Add URL(s)" tab.
4. Click the + button on the URLs bar.
5. Paste the link of the video you copied into the space provided.
6. Select "Start Download".
7. Once downloaded, go to the folder your video has been put into. For me, it is the Videos folder in a folder called "Any Video Converter".

You can now watch the video at your leisure!

If you want to go back and watch a previous video, select this link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb4hzdO-YgzmrIRVC-oby\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb4hzdO-YgzmrIRVC-oby_w) and you will find all of our Partnership videos.

Select the video you want to watch. When the video page opens pause the video so you can focus on the next step. Right click on the video you are watching and select from the menu, "copy video URL". Then do steps #2 – 7 above.

- Are you interested in creativity?
- Do you enjoy painting, needlework, cooking, gardening, music, writing or other creative outlets?
- Would you like to explore spirituality through your creative expression?
- Are you blocked in expressing your creativity?

*"This is a book that addresses a delicate and complex subject. For those who will use it, it is a valuable tool to get in touch with their own creativity."* Martin Scorsese - Filmmaker

This is a 12 week program, guiding you through reading, journaling and exploration of your given creative bent. It links creativity to spirituality by showing, in non-denominational terms, how to tap into the higher power that connects human creativity with the Creator.

An information ZOOM meeting is set for:

**Wednesday 29th July @ 7:30pm**

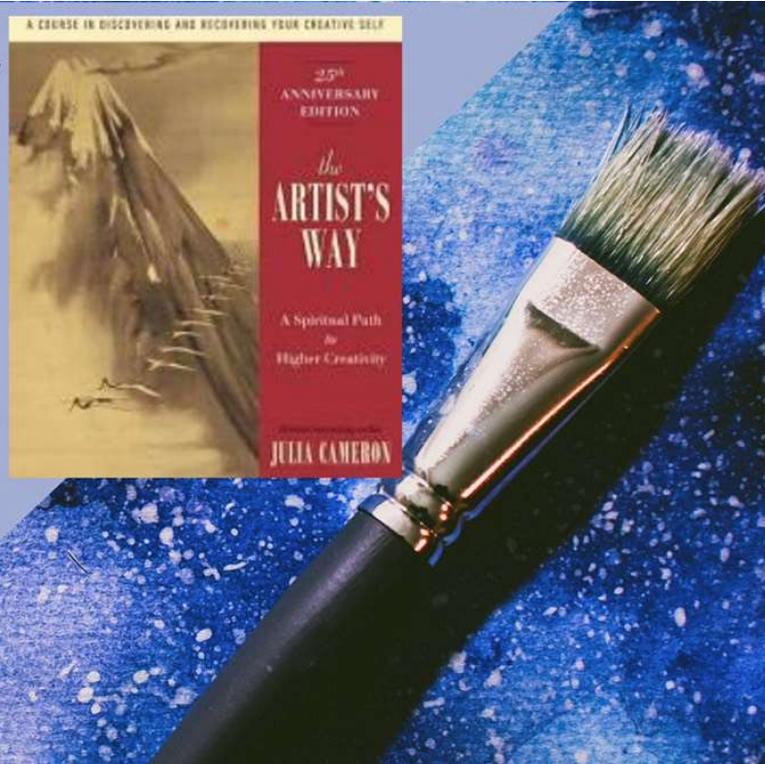
Contact:

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These pets (pages 3 and 7) have appeared on our video services... Keep sending your photos of your pets coping with COVID to add a warmer dimension to sharing this difficult time together..



### Next Partnership in Print

The calendar is back but it's a bit empty! Have a go at meeting with one of the ministry team at their scheduled catch-up times... or pick another time to gather with your group...

**If you do have** stories, dates, meetings, photos or something to share – please send them to me **by 23<sup>rd</sup> August** for the next edition of PiP. I am happy to receive emails or texts via phone and I even look in my letterbox daily! (contact one of the ministry team for my details)      Robyn 😊

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**PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE** [www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au)

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd	Pip Elston	Doug McIver miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston	Church Council Executive	Marge Townrow Dot Smith
<u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)					Helen Aldridge, Pip Elston
<u>LANCEFIELD</u> - 9 High St	Rita Vandervalk	Ian Kennedy	Peter Fraser		Ian Kennedy, Rita Vandervalk
<u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole Dawn Hinneberg
<u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)					George Roberts
<u>MT MACEDON</u> - 682 Mt Macedon Rd	Neil Tweddle	Fiona Armour	Lyn Almond		David Liebich, Neil Tweddle, Anne Fyfield (alt)
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

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