



Sapphire Coast Uniting Church 'Lockdown' Newsletter

Week Ending Sunday 19th April

Welcome to the fourth of our weekly emails, keeping our congregation connected during the Corona Virus shutdown. As we won't be printing our regular pewslip, this will be part of our approach to keep our folk connected. Contributions and items for inclusion can be forwarded to Jeff or Tony.

Birthdays next week:



Anita Austen-Rau - 21st April

Cathryn Watson – 22nd April

Rev David will be on annual leave from Sunday 12th April. During his time away from duties please direct any necessary calls to Church Council Chairman Colin on 64950961.

* Some of our Op Shop volunteers will be aware that in early March an appeal was run in the shop, raising funds for the local Wires group. Donations from volunteer staff and customers quickly raised the target of \$502.50, which has now provided a larger animal enclosure for the care of injured, sick or orphaned native animals. The enclosure can be used at locations around the area, as needs arise. Many thanks to Lyn Scrymgeour for sourcing and obtaining the new enclosure and to Op Shop Coordinator Corinne for organising the fund raising.

Elders: Thank you to our Elders who have been working hard to maintain contact with the small groups in their charge. It is important that are people do not feel disconnected from the church during this difficult time. Secretary John can send out copies of the Elders Group List on request, or copies of our latest Contact List, so Elders can identify people in their group who may not be receiving emails. Please continue to 'letterbox drop' to those in this category if possible, and pass on any new telephone or email contacts you come across.

Recently Added Resources from Presbytery

- Article by Hugh Mackay about how will widespread social isolation change us - <https://johnmenadue.com/hugh-mackay-how-will-widespread-social-isolation-change-us/>
- The Presbytery of Port Phillip East (in Melbourne) is doing amazing work, supporting their congregations with responding to COVID-19 restrictions. The following link begins with the most basic things that we can do at this time, then builds step-by-step to more complex online ministry. There are links to many practical resources. <https://www.ucappep.org/covid-19-response/technology/>
- RockTells Stories (Easter Story) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1VYZItUocA>
- Illustrated Ministry—resources for children to use at home <https://store.illustratedministry.com>
- Lost Sheep stories, complete with script, powerpoint, and questions <https://www.lostsheep.com.au/>

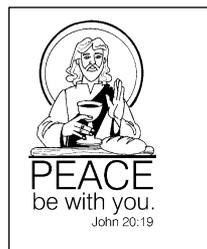
Both Illustrated Ministry and Lost Sheep have current *free offers* to entice you to experience their resources.

Lectionary readings this week:

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31



What is Easter Monday all about?

It has religious significance, because it is the day after Christians believe the Messiah returned to earth. It's Easter Monday, the last day of the holiday celebrations before work starts again.

Easter Sunday was perhaps the biggest day in the Christian calendar, when churchgoers celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Easter Sunday is the day when Jesus emerged from the tomb after his crucifixion, proving (for Christians) there is life beyond death. But the day afterwards is not celebrated as a public holiday everywhere. In some places it is called Ball Monday.

It has religious significance, because it is the day after Christians believe the Messiah returned to earth. Jesus is believed to have stayed for 40 days, appearing to believers and giving ministry.

He healed the sick and proved to doubters that he was the son of God.

This is what helped to establish the church, it is believed. Christians believe he ascended to heaven after the 40 days. The holiday is prominent mostly in Catholic circles. For those in the Eastern Orthodox Church, Easter Monday, also called Bright Monday or Renewal Monday, is the beginning of Bright Week. Although there are ceremonies for the entire week following Easter, they are often condensed into Bright Monday.

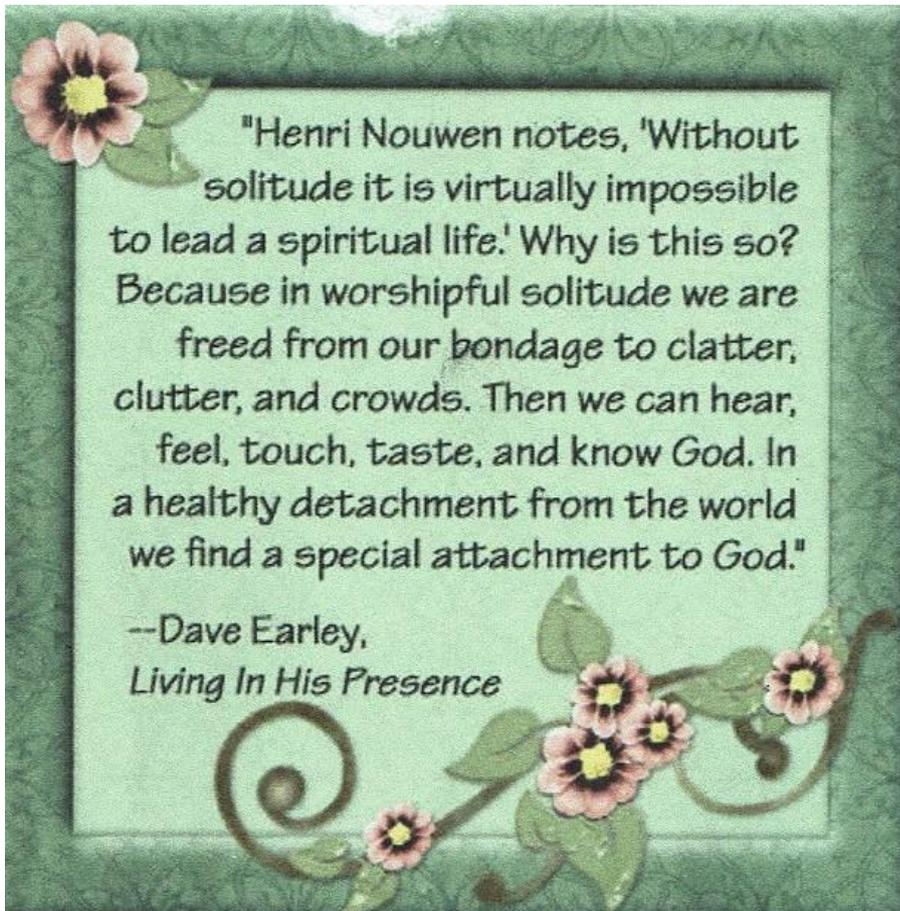
In areas influenced by Roman Catholicism, Easter Monday is the beginning of the Easter Octave. It is common to douse people in water, representing the new life of baptism, and play games with Easter eggs.

The Bible makes no mention of Easter or Easter Monday. There is no requirement as a church to celebrate it, but there is no prohibition either.



However, the tradition of painting hard-boiled eggs during springtime predates Christianity. In many cultures around the world, the egg is a symbol of new life, fertility and rebirth. For Christians, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Painting Easter eggs is an especially beloved tradition in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches where the eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross. Easter eggs are blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal vigil and distributed to the congregants. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed Tomb of Christ, and cracking the shell represents Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Moreover, historically Christians would abstain from eating eggs and meat during Lent, and Easter was the first chance to eat eggs after a long period of abstinence. (Orthodox Christians continue to abstain from eggs during Lent.)

Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. An egg hunt involves hiding eggs outside for children to run around and find on Easter morning. Eggs are rolled as a symbolic reenactment of the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb. In the United States, the Easter Egg Roll is an annual event that is held on the White House lawn each Monday after Easter.



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Missed a newsletter? They can be viewed on our website by clicking on the link on the front page, or going through to 'Notices and News' and clicking on 'Lockdown Newsletters'.

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive these emails

Keep your "distance "and keep safe

Ed.