

COLLINS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

A CHURCH FOR THE CITY



The Prodigal Son, He Qi

The Parable of the Lost Son and the Waiting Father

Preacher: Rev Dr Frank Rees

Sunday March 15, 2020

Address: 174 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9.00am to 5.00pm **Phone:** 03 9650 1180

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FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Friends,

We are all profoundly aware of the ever-changing public health issues emerging from the spread of the current coronavirus. As always, panic, fear and anxiety are unhelpful responses. Similarly, naïveté, irresponsibility or failure to plan appropriately are unhelpful.

The pastors and deacons of CSBC have been meeting to ensure appropriate plans are in place to protect our members and visitors from the ongoing risks. You will notice some changes to our rituals of greeting, distribution of communion and sharing of food. We have increased our cleaning frequency, especially of railings, door handles and other frequently touched surfaces. There are hand sanitisers and tissues available.

Practising “social distancing”, as advised by health authorities, is difficult for those of us who deeply love gathering together! So many of us treasure our practices of community, as well as rituals like passing the peace and sharing the Lord’s Supper. We are working to maintain as much as we can of the community life we value, whilst ensuring that our most vulnerable members and visitors are not exposed to unnecessary risk. We thank you for your co-operation in this.

As always, we uphold our decision makers in prayer. We ask for wisdom in policy-making and communications, and give thanks for the medical professionals and services that seek to keep us all well.

Please let us know if there are other ways we can respond or reassure you.

With love,

Carolyn

Pastor for Teaching & Worship: *Carolyn Francis*

Pastor for Care & Community: *Simon Carey Holt*

Coordinator of Neighbourhood Engagement: *Sherry Maddock*

NEWS & EVENTS

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: Tonight there will be a screening of the documentary 'Against Our Oath' by award winning filmmaker Heather Kilpatrick (Mary Meets Mohammad). The film follows the MediVac campaign to enable seriously ill asylum seekers to be treated by doctors in Australia and the ethical dilemma of doctors when governments override their decisions. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with **Dr Helen Young**, paediatric neurologist involved in the treatment of asylum seekers in Australia and Nauru. The event begins at **7.30pm** at St Mark's Anglican Church in Spotswood. *Full details are on the notice board in the narthex.*

GIA DINNER: On **Wednesday March 18**, Global Interaction (the cross-cultural mission arm of the Baptist churches of Australia) will host its annual state dinner, 6.30pm at the Kilsyth South Baptist Church. For more information and to rsvp, go to www.globalinteraction.org.au and follow the links.

CSBC MEMBERS MEETING: Today our first members meeting for 2020 will be held commencing at 12.15pm on level 4. The agenda will include

(i) new applications for membership,
(ii) a report on the possible replacement of the external emergency stairs for Central House, and
(iii) the challenges and possibilities we face in the future development of the Church Fund. Church members are urged to come, and all participants in our community are welcome to attend.

WELCOMING: We are looking for some more people to offer a warm welcome on the Verandah each Sunday morning. Please see **Derek Mortimer** if this is a way you would like to contribute.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Mark Holt has just returned from time in Cambodia with the Global Interaction (GIA) team members in that region. Remember Mark and Val in your prayers as they continue their important work of leadership with GIA.

Fraser Goff has been visiting family in Melbourne and will soon join his partner **Katherine Dobson** in East Timor. We hold them both in our prayers in this time of transition.

We remember **Bernie Carrick** in our prayers as a period of treatment in hospital continues.

We pray for **Ali Holt** who began a new job in advocacy this week with Victorian Legal Aid.

SERVICE ROSTERS

TODAY

SERMON: Frank Rees
MUSIC: David Cundy
BIBLE READING: Shirley Graves-Mortimer
SECRETARY: Stefanie Pearce
SOUND Sam Li
DOOR STEWARDS: Amanda, Merilyn, Abigail
MORNING TEA: Jeanine, Kate, Trixie, Lydia

NEXT SUNDAY

SERMON: Carolyn Francis
MUSIC: David Cundy
BIBLE READING: Joanna Lee
SECRETARY: Katherine Jones
SOUND: Peter White
DOOR STEWARDS: Bruce, Pauline, Neil
MORNING TEA: Yelena, Lydia, Lynne

THE JUNCTION

Every first Sunday of the month, we host **The Junction**, a place of support and friendship for everyone regardless of gender, age or sexuality. We meet either on the Verandah or in the beautiful Green Room (level 1) for fun activities and friendship. If you would like more information please see Nigel Smith. All welcome.

PARKING

The Royal Lane Car Park offers discounted parking to people attending CSBC on Sunday mornings. Parking between 10am and 1pm is \$10. To take advantage of this offer, have your parking ticket stamped in the narthex before you leave. Stays longer than 3 hours attract the maximum weekend rate of \$12.

GIVING TO CSBC

To assist with your regular giving to the church, you can arrange with your bank an automatic periodic payment at intervals that suit your budget using the details that follow:

Account name—Collins Street Baptist Church; **Bank name**—Bendigo Bank;
BSB—633000; **Account number**—123001786.

CSBC ON FACEBOOK

The church has its own Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, just 'like' the page and you'll be kept up to date.

DEACONS

Robert Iles (Secretary); **Paulo Pereira** (Treasurer); **Stefanie Pearce** (Partnerships); **Nigel Smith** (Property Development); **Lynne Chapman** (Pastoral Care); **Ros Otzen** (Worship); **Katherine Jones** (Spiritual Nurture and Education); **Neil Wright** (Pastoral Care), **Abi Chenoweth**, **Amanda Mao**.