



**OUR BUILDING
IS CLOSED.**

**THE CHURCH
IS NOT.**

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
HELP US SERVE
GET CONNECTED

Distant Socialising

A Letter from Rev Andrew

Readings for Sunday 7th June: Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus' words from the end of Matthew's Gospel are often called 'The Great Commission'. Go and baptize and make disciples of all nations. In short, tell people about Jesus.

What do you think the 'all nations' bit means? Some have understood this to mean going to other countries – people have been sent as missionaries to far-flung places to share their faith (not always with the greatest of sensitivity). But the word translated as 'nations' (ethne in Greek) has a broader meaning. It means people of all races, colours, cultures, status, ability – and more. It means all people, without the barriers and differences that humans have created for themselves. Christianity – Jesus Christ – is for everyone.

But this presents us with a big challenge. How can we share the good news of Jesus in ways that are culturally sensitive? Similarly, it is sometimes said that the Church's 'shop window' is its worship. Can we worship in ways that draw all people in, so that they want to come and see what it is all about? What do you think? If we truly believe that Jesus is for everyone (if we value diversity in all its forms), how can we show this in our church life, in the community in which we live?



COVID 19 Update

As you are probably aware, the NSW state government is continuing to loosen restrictions and allow more gatherings to take place, including up to 50 people at worship services. This is good news, but as with this whole scenario, it is not as straight forward as just making sure no more than 50 people are in the building.

The Synod and Presbytery leaders have been working very hard and have put together a lot of information and links to government resources to guide us to next steps. In the coming days a COVID Safe Roadmap Working Group will meet to begin to make a plan for all our worship centres and different activities and, as mandated under public health orders, prepare a COVID-19 Safety Plan for how we will keep staff, volunteers and visitors safe. This group will guide us as to how we:

- ⇒ Manage and monitor social distancing and personal hygiene
- ⇒ Record names and contact details of every person in attendance at every event (including hire groups) in case of an outbreak
- ⇒ Clean and disinfect and/or put out of use things that we touch, including light switches, railings, door handles, microphones, pew Bibles, hymn books, toys and colouring/craft supplies – both congregation and hire groups.
- ⇒ Clean and disinfect toilets after each use - both congregation and hire groups.
- ⇒ Safely prepare and handle food (or decide not to serve food)
- ⇒ Plan for worship when we are unable to sing, shake hands, hug, pass an offering plate, sit closer than 1.5 metres to people that we don't live with etc

We will update you on the roadmap as it is developed, and thank you for your patience.

Contact Details

Due to the current health situation, the church office is not open to the public.

The care and administration of the church will continue, so if you want to contact us feel free to do so by phone or email.

Church Office

T: (02) 6362 5788

E: ucorange@tpg.com.au

Rev Andrew Cunningham

T: (02) 6362 1140

E: andrewc@nswact.uca.org.au

Chairperson—Bob Nash

E: robertn@nswact.uca.org.au

W: orange.uca.org.au

Find us on

YouTube

Volunteers Needed to Keep the Hall Clean

As I mentioned last week, the church buildings and halls are being used very infrequently at present, but we still need to do some cleaning in the hall (not the church as it is currently a work site). *This is the normal cleaning, and not the COVID 19 cleaning that I referred to in the last paragraph, so please don't be put off!*



Would you be willing to give some time to go on a roster to do some of that cleaning? Maybe you could put up your hand as an individual and work with someone else (observing social distancing), or maybe as a family or couple you would put up your hand to take a turn. Please email me, or the office, if you would be willing to help maintain our facilities and help save some money for the church.

Thank you to those who have already offered, but more would be very helpful...

Virtual Youth Group

Our new Youth Group met via *Zoom* last Sunday. We had a small group meet for half an hour and consider the Acts 2: 1-21 Pentecost reading using video, different languages and chat. More are welcome to join in. Please get in touch for the details.

May Offerings

Thanks again for your commitment to supporting the church financially through your offerings. Our aim is to clearly show how your offerings support the mission and ministry of the congregation, while the income from buildings should cover their running costs. I will write more about how this works in the coming weeks, but can I encourage you to continue your offerings as they support our work in the congregation and community even in this very different time.

Our budget for 2019-2020 was based on a monthly offering of \$10,500. **In the month of May our offerings totalled \$9,410**, which I want to thank you for, and recognise how good this is considering our changed worship situation. As noted earlier, it may still be some time before we return to our buildings en masse for worship, and even then, we will not be passing an offering plate, and so I encourage you to keep making your offerings by direct giving where possible, or by cheque if you are unable to set up the direct giving option. If you have any questions, or would like some help to set this up, please contact Sally at the office.

Preliminary Budget

I also want to remind you to read, think and pray about the preliminary budget that you received two weeks ago.

You will read in the chairperson's note that you also received today, that we plan to meet via *Zoom* for a congregational meeting and vote on the 21st of June. If you cannot connect via *Zoom*, please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or comments, and then you can vote by email to Sally at the office, before the 21st of June, and she will record the responses. Please vote 'yes' or 'no' to the following question. 'Do you approve the 2020-2021 budget for Orange Uniting Church?'

If you are unsure of your membership status and eligibility to vote, please also get in touch with Sally for clarification—SallyJ@nswact.uca.org.au

Website

I'm also pleased to let you that we have a new website. You will find it at orange.uca.org.au. Please take a look and let me know what you think and whether you can see anything that we have missed. The old website will stop working on the 15th of June, so please take note of this new address if you are a website user. This new website is hosted and paid for by the Synod and will save us \$153 a year.



New Seating at the Anson Street Church?

A reminder that we are considering new seating for the Anson Street church, and we value your input. Please get in touch if you wish, to make arrangements to try out our sample at the church centre.

Sunday Worship and Holy Communion

Worship this Sunday will again be using the YouTube channel and *Zoom* (the same 'meeting invite' as recent Sundays).

We will share communion as part of the *Zoom* gathering, and if you would like to take part, please arrange to have some bread and grape juice available for the appropriate time in the service. Please prepare only what you need.

Please get in touch, and someone will be happy to talk you through how get connected. You can also phone into *Zoom* gatherings if you don't have a device. Just ask!

God bless, and keep in touch.

Giving Direct

Confidential giving via electronic banking can be used for either a regular payment or one-off payment from your bank account to make your offering.

Account Name: Giving Direct – Orange UC

BSB: 634 634

Account Number: 100046973

- all deposits made to this account are taken as offering payments.

- do not use this account for any other church related deposits.