

## 2021- Spring Message

A very warm and bright hello to everyone,

It's Spring and a time to welcome wonderful new life; vibrant colours and perfumes; fresh new opportunities; and this year, renewed freedoms in the coming months.

We have missed each other very much and we so look forward to being together in person. We know from a ring-around this week that everyone is really looking forward to being together face-to-face for worship and other church activities.

**The Church Council is keen to support face-to-face (F2F) gatherings as soon as we can but we need to balance that with everybody's safety.**

To do this, we are using the latest information from the NSW Government and advice from the UCA Synod NSW and ACT in line with determinations by the NSW Government. [See Note below on p2.]

Synod has provided careful guidance but largely left decisions to each church's Church Council.

<b>So, our first F2F worship service at Boronia Park is planned for Sunday 31 October 2021.</b>
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**Until then**, we will continue with our current way of worship through our website on Sunday 17 and Sunday 24 October. After that, our 9.30 worship services will be recorded and put up on our website later in the day for those who can't attend on the day.

**From 31 October, to attend F2F and keep everyone as safe as possible, we need to put the following conditions in place, for the time being:**

**Members of our adult church family** will need to:

- be double vaccinated - it would be appreciated if you would kindly bring proof of vaccination (phone or hard copy) on 31/10 or just on the first day you attend. You are welcome to email this beforehand to Robyn Harvey, our Treasurer and Covid-19 Officer at [robyn.49@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robyn.49@bigpond.net.au) or text to Robyn on 0418 783 290
- on entry, use our QR code via your mobile phone, or sign in; use the hand sanitiser provided; and have your temperature checked- this applies to everyone
- wear a mask for all of the service
- understand that singing is not allowed
- understand that we will not have morning tea for the moment
- keep to numbers and the relevant square metre rule under Covid guidelines. This will not be a problem for us.

**Younger members of our church family:**

- Vaccinated children and young people are warmly welcome and **young people under 16 who are not fully vaccinated** can attend providing they are with their fully vaccinated parent/s. Children 12 years old and over must wear a mask.

**We would love to see everyone back at church face to face but at the moment, if you are an unvaccinated adult, the first day to join us face to face is planned for Sunday 5 December.** This reflects the latest NSW roadmap. We strongly encourage everyone who can be vaccinated to do this

unless there are associated health issues. We know this is the case for some of our church family. We want to keep absolutely everyone as safe as possible.

To support the safety of everyone in future F2F gatherings, we have investigated the option of rapid antigen testing but this is not yet available to individuals or churches.

**Before any of us can gather**, Robyn will submit our latest BPUC Covid-19 Safety Plan (Oct 2021) on the new template to the NSW Government, as required.

<b>During November at Church</b>
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**There are several important events during November so this is a 'heads up':**

- The **National Church Life Survey** is due for completion online or on paper on **Sunday 14 November**. This survey is offered to all churches in the same year as the national Census i.e. every four years. It provides us with important information about our church life at Boronia Park as well as more broadly. Our Church Council is keen for as many of our Church family as possible to complete the survey. This year, there are also surveys for young people and community groups with connections to the church. There will be more about this at church on Sun 31 October and Sun 7 November.
- **Secondly, three young members of our church family will be presented to our Congregation on Sunday 21 November** as they start their Confirmation journey which culminates in their Confirmation on Easter Sunday 2022.
- **Other activities are planned and information will be provided on the coming Sundays.**

Over the next few weeks, if you're not able to join us at Church, please keep in touch with your Elder and also visit our Boronia Park Uniting Church website to keep up with your church family. That website is [Where We Are - Boronia Park Uniting Church \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)

You can also join a very friendly zoom catch up on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and each week Seung Jae or your Elder forwards that link along with the links to the worship service.

Thank you for your time in taking in this information. Seung Jae will provide a copy of this message on our website as part of the Worship Resources for 10 October 2021.

For now, on behalf of your Church Council and our church family, I wish you God's deep peace this special Spring season and His assurance that we are each truly loved by our Heavenly Father.

Sincerely

*Rosemary*

Rosemary Brook

Chair, Boronia Park Church Council

10 October 2021

<p><b>Note:</b> In regard to reopening our Church to meeting F2F, we received recently a very thoughtful pastoral letter from Rev Simon Hansford, Moderator of the UCA Synod NSW and ACT together with a three-page Covid 19 Guidance Note, dated 29 Sept 2021. We also have the UCA's Covid 19 Information Update about Church-related groups and activities involving children and youth, dated 30 September 2021. Note that the latest Covid-19 Safety Plan for churches requires us to, <i>Take reasonable steps to ensure all people aged 16 and over on the premises are fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption (including staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors).</i></p>
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