

.Kirwan Uniting Church

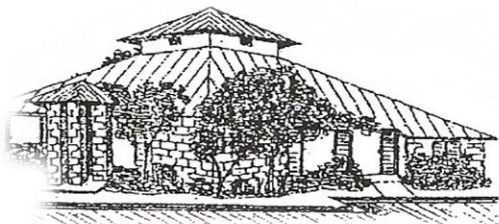
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KEEPING IN TOUCH

WELCOME! *We welcome all visitors with us today, and pray your time with us will be a blessed one.*

Kirwan's Mission Statement

To be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit to practise and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world

14th June, 2020

Lectionary readings	Pentecost 2
Gen 18: 1- 15	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19
Rom 5: 1-8	Mt 9: 35 – 10: 8

Richard's Rambling

This has been a sensory week for me. The sense of sight on Monday at Specsavers, of taste on Tuesday at the dentist, and of hearing on Wednesday at my ENT surgeon. Some of you know the story about sight overlapping with sound at Specsavers. Sitting in a (socially-distanced) waiting area, a young girl came out of her office and told me what I already knew, "Your hearing aid is whistling". "Yes", I said, "it's badly fitting, it's either whistle or nothing". "I can fix that", she replied, and she did. She lengthened the tube between the in-ear bit and the behind-the-ear bit, bent it into a different shape, and hey presto, no whistling. The dentist came up with what dentists are good at, a treatment plan which will cost more than my car's worth unless BUPA come to the party. And the ENT surgeon offered the quote of the week: "You're young"

More above-the-neck stuff on Thursday, a haircut, and to round the week off, an MRI and CT on Friday to show the cochlear surgeon where my skull is.

When it comes to comprehending our great God, our senses aren't up to the task. Isaiah 64: Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

St Paul develops this in First Corinthians 2:

However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen,

what no ear has heard,

and what no human mind has conceived"—

the things God has prepared for those who love him—

these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

Jesus, speaking to his disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit, tells them in a great Trinitarian passage (John 16) "He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Psalm 8 and Psalm 19, seeing God's handiwork in the heavenly bodies. We "see" those stars with our eyes, but seeing God at work in flinging them into space is by the eye of faith, a gift of the Spirit. So if your eyes are not

quite so sharp as they were, and your hearing aid whistles – close your eyes and ears to the clamorous world, and let the Spirit show you what God has prepared for those who love him.

Thanks to the Fence Builders.

Thanks to Maarten, John S and David BT for all their work in removing the old fence around the kids play area and replacing it with a new safe fence.

Jonah Coffee Group

Has recommenced at 10.30am in the covered area on Monday morning. All measures to meet COVID-19 requirements will apply.

Return to Worship Services

This is really complicated because we primarily have to obey Queensland Government legislation as well as be guided by rules or advice from Synod. We receive enormous numbers of documents every week, and everything is changing all the time. For our congregation our priority is not to put anyone at risk. Greg Fraser has interpreted all of these rules into a set of management plans for our church, and he has measured each space to determine how many people we can get in while maintaining social distance requirements. The main church can hold 41 people, the back room 13 and the outdoor space an additional 20. We are now permitted to hold meetings and worship of up to 20 people in each of the spaces. Small groups have begun to meet and on Sunday 28th June we plan to hold our first services back together. BUT we can't all meet at the same time so we are starting to organise how we are going to do it. We are not allowed to run morning tea, and we need 7 square metres per person if we are going to sing, but that's no problem if there are only 20 in the church. By July we might be allowed to go up to 100 people at services, but we still have to stick to social distance rules which limit us to 41 in the main church.

Firstly there are requirements we must have in place:

- We must have a safety management plan – documents approved at CoM.
- We must adhere to the 1.5m distancing.
- We have strict cleaning requirements to follow every time we use any space at the church. We will need people to volunteer to sanitise all the seats and touch points each time we meet.
- We must have a list or roll of the people who have met in this area. This is to include: Date and time, people's names, their address and contact phone number that they can be contacted.
- We are removing all cushions and most of the chairs in the church so that we can get the right distance. Couples and families can sit close together.
- There must be signs telling folk what to do, and someone (me advised by Greg and Richard and others) must take overall responsibility that all the rules are being followed.

So we are going to try to start worshipping together again at the church, beginning with a trial run on Sunday 28th June. We don't want to have to turn anyone away, so on that Sunday Richard will run the service three times at 8 am, 10 am and 12 noon. We plan that 10 am will include the Sunday School kids who will go straight to the back room with their teachers and if there are more than 13, some can go in the undercover space. Their parents can attend the service inside the church at that time, up to 18 plus Richard and a singer. To work out who will attend each of the other service times the person who normally contacts you each week to see how you are going will phone to ask which service you prefer to attend – 8 am or 12 noon or either, or parents of kids who can come at 10 am, so we can get an idea of numbers and be sure we don't have more than 20 at each service. They are going to send your names to me and we'll confirm arrangements in KIT next week. Richard will still record the service and put it on Vimeo.

If you don't feel well please stay away until you are better. If you are nervous or anxious about coming out then please stay at home.

We look forward to seeing everyone again soon albeit not altogether at one time.

David King
