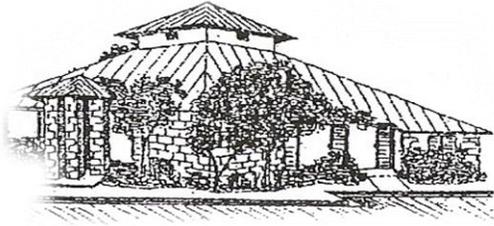


Kirwan Uniting Church



kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com

Church Office – 4723 2932

<https://kirwanunitingchurch.org.au>

Pastor Richard Lance - 0447 447 945

rh lance@fastmail.fm

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

5th July 2020, 2020

Service Times: 8.30am and 10.30am
Preacher: Peter Ireland

Lectionary readings Pentecost 5
Gen 24: 34-38;42-49;58-67
Psm: 45: 10-17 or **Song 2:**8-13
Rom 7: 15-25a **Mt 11:** 16-19; 25-30

Richard's Ramble

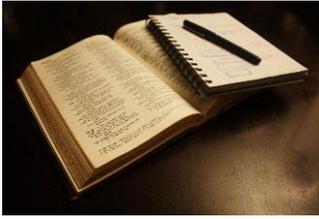
Do you remember the Lone Ranger? His sidekick, Tonto? Horse, Silver? Tonto's horse, Scout? Tonto's name for the Lone Ranger, Kemosabe? The end of each programme, when someone would ask, "Who is that masked man?" Then Silver would rear up, the Lone Ranger exclaim "Hi-yo Silver!" and ride off into the sunset with Tonto and Scout.

The background story for Silver is that he was a wild stallion whom the Lone Ranger rescued from an enraged buffalo. Silver followed the Lone Ranger in gratitude, and became his horse without needing to be broken in. I'm put in mind of Romans 6 concerning our willing service to Christ who rescued us: 'But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.'

However, in a later broadcast, the Lone Ranger thinks that perhaps he shouldn't have accepted Silver's offering. After all, he is a wild animal. So he sets him free, sends him off with a slap on his flank. But at the end of that episode, Silver comes back of his own accord. Now my paradigmatic-tendency mind turns to Philemon, to whom Paul returns an escaped slave. Not now as a slave, though (verse 15) 'Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.' Jesus himself tells us, his willing servants, that (John 15:15) "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends ... "

But wait – Silver doesn't come back by himself, he brings with him a companion who becomes Tonto's horse, Scout. Another bible analogy to encourage us in our service to Christ! Think about Andrew (John 1:39 passim) who brings his brother Peter to Jesus, then (John 6) introduces the lad with loaves and fishes. Not just evangelism, but Andrew is a human recruiting station for bringing others to serve Christ, not be mere followers.

Bet you never thought you'd see a theological reflection on the Lone Ranger in Keep in Touch ☺ Hi-yo, Silver



Bible Study Group

Wednesday
7th July at
7.30pm.

We meet in the church, and not the small meeting room at the back

KIRWAN FELLOWSHIP Thank you for those who let me know that they will be coming. We have our 20 attendees signed up for **July 7th** so sadly, please don't just turn up on the day unless the government announces new rules. Sheila



Evening Service – will re-commence on Sunday 12th July at 5.30pm in the church, and

on the 2nd Sunday of the month from then on.

Resuming Services

Thanks to everyone who came to one of the three services on Sunday. It seems that 8am is not too popular. During notices we talked about service times and suggested that we move to 2 services each Sunday at 8.30 and 10.30 am from next Sunday 5th July. We need an hour between services to give enough time between everyone leaving and the next lot arriving, to disinfect everything. We can count couples as one space, but the maximum number of people we can have in the Church Area currently is 40 people in two separate groups of 20 with the person taking the Service on the Dais (not included in the calculated area) making the 41st person. We ask that you stick to the side of the church you go into and not cross over. Please mingle outside and not inside the church. The

10.30 service will be when the kids come for Sunday School. We are not going to ration places by asking you to sign up but hope that you will balance out attendance by choosing either 8.30 or 10.30. If far too many people turn up we can sit outside or in the lobby. Let's see how it goes. Last Sunday was very successful and wonderful to see everyone again.

This is not a permanent change, but it looks likely that social distance restrictions will continue for a few months, possibly until the end of the year. As soon as we can all come together again we will go back to the 9am service and morning teas, but until then we have to strictly follow rules that require us to keep plenty of space between ourselves, to disinfect everything after use and to keep a register of everyone who attends every service and meeting. A really difficult rule is to have 7 square metres around everyone who sings. As that would mean having only 20 people in church can we please sing softly, hum along, or wear a face mask if you want to sing with gusto.

David King.



