



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 76 MAY 2022

GOD'S PRONOUN?

You might have noticed within our community in recent years a focus on the power of the words we use. We have moved away, for example, from referring to 'mankind' and use 'humankind' instead. 'Chairmen' have become simply 'Chairs', and there are other examples. There are people who regard this as 'political correctness', but I understand it as a sincere attempt to hear the voice of people who have felt excluded by the community's assumption that, for example using 'man' as the standard reference for 'human' has no impact on women and girls.

One relatively recent aspect of this conversation that you might not have come across is around the usage of personal pronouns. In a growing number of situations, it is becoming common to include, when introducing oneself, or on one's email signature, something like: "Annette Buckley: she/her". This would mean that, if you were to say something like "Can you ask Annette if she would like a cup of tea?" then 'she' would be the appropriate pronoun to use, because I identify as female. As part of this move, one option that some people have for their personal pronouns is they/them/their. That is, an individual is asking you to say something like "Can you ask Annette if they would like a cup of tea?" when Annette is an individual who doesn't want to be referred to as any particular gender.

This seems to me like a huge gift from the LGBTQI+ community to the Church. I have, for some time, been trying not to refer to God's gender using he/him pronouns because I believe God is beyond gender. Using he/him all the time gives the impression that God is male. Genesis 2 tells us that we are all made in God's image... male and female. The difficulty is that avoiding pronouns creates some ugly and awkward sentences, constantly using 'God' instead of pronouns, or using words like "Godself" to avoid saying "himself". Now, however, we are being given the gift of being able to use 'they' as a pronoun for an individual. It is not particularly common just now, but there are, for example, media outlets that will use "they" when they know that an individual to whom they refer has requested it as their pronoun. Hopefully, this will, over time, become common.

It seems to me that 'they', in this new setting, might just be the perfect pronoun for God. People, over time, will gradually become used to hearing 'they' as a pronoun for an individual as well as keeping its usage for referring to a group. For the Church, I believe this does at least two things for us. As well as helping us avoid the use of male/female pronouns about a God who is beyond gender, it enables us to use a word that is usually a collective pronoun, but is becoming acceptable as a singular pronoun, for our Holy Three-in-One God. It's also a reminder that Words have power. I hope to use the power of this new community shift in its use of pronouns to better express myself when I refer to the God I worship.

Annette Buckley



Photo by [Mohamed Nohassi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

LECTIONARY Readings Year C

Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter vigil and concluding on the day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day/Season	Colour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
1 May	Easter 3	W	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
8 May	Easter 4	W	Acts 9:36-43	23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
15 May	Easter 5	W	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
22 May	Easter 6	W	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10, 22 to 22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
26 May	Ascension Day	W	Acts 1:1-11	47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
29 May	Easter 7	W	Acts 16:16-34	97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
5 Jun	Day of Pentecost	W	Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9	104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

AUSTRALIA'S HIDDEN HISTORY FROM MYTHS TO REALITY

Have you ever wondered about the things you learnt at school, and just how accurate they were? Science might have moved on, but what about history?

This May/ June Australia will be once again celebrating **National Reconciliation Week**. With this in mind, there will be a free information evening at “The Three Little Pigs” café to address the topic.

We are pleased to present our speaker, Meredith Southee.

Meredith started her long career as a history teacher at Northam Senior High School, Perth. In 1976, along with her colleagues, Meredith taught according to the curriculum prescribed by her state education department.

Meredith's love of teaching and history took her to several teaching and advisory positions over the next few decades. However, in the 1980s and 90s there was a rising sense that what she had been conscientiously teaching was not quite right. The previously prescribed history curriculum was being questioned. More and more information was coming to light about the persecution and decimation of indigenous people, and their way of life. Further to this was that mistreatment was continuing today.

Many events and incidents were couched as euphemisms. ‘Orphanages’ were not for orphans, but for children who had been wrenched from their families and taken to institutions to ‘civilise’ them.

In 1997 the ‘Bringing them home’ report was released. It was a pivotal moment in the controversy that was the Stolen Generation.

Meredith's life took a significant turn, and the story doesn't end there.

Meredith will take us through her journey which has many more twists and turns, as she brings students, colleagues, and others on a pathway to reconciliation.

Join us for this free event at 7pm for a 7:30 start at the Three Little Pigs café on Wednesday May 25th.

Coffee and snacks available for purchase.

Learning Curve is an initiative of Gisborne Uniting Church. It provides an opportunity to hear from informative and experienced speakers on topics of relevance to our lives and in our society.

NEWS FROM COCO

CoCo met on 5th March at the Gisborne church.

Most of the meeting was about follow-up actions from the weekend retreat held over the first weekend in February where concrete steps for future action in the Partnership were determined.

We have four areas that we are focusing on in our planning - Community, Partnership, Technology, and Worship

Community - Conversations with Neighbourhood Houses or other relevant community groups in each congregation area are underway and keen interest from the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House has already been expressed. These conversations are both for use of available buildings and also for exploring where we can make connections with people resources. This may be for short term projects rather than an ongoing long-term commitment, but it will be exciting to see what evolves from these conversations around the Partnership

Partnership - We need to review the best use of the resources we have and how these can be used for missional purposes. These resources include the vital roles of the Op Shops and social enterprise opportunities that could be associated with them. We also asked for financial status reports from everyone, including the Op Shops, so that we can better determine how to fund ongoing ministry. Other areas of potential funding are also being explored such as bequests and legacies.

Technology - Neil Moorhouse gave us a very comprehensive demonstration of how the new equipment that has been purchased will work around the Partnership. This is planned to be trialed between Gisborne and Tylden so that any difficulties can be sorted out progressively. Other points of discussion were the opportunities to expand the Facebook group of Church members, possibility a Book Club, and use of technology for Advent Studies e.g.

Worship - It was agreed that Tylden and Romsey would ask their congregations if they agreed to change their worship times to 9.30am on a Sunday from 1st May. This will enable the future use of technology to share worship together from each location around the Partnership. We talked about an initial need for a back-up worship plan if the technology has teething problems. We also suggested that congregations be encouraged to open their church doors as often as possible to offer a prayer space to everyone, especially in times of crisis, such as the Ukraine war, and floods in Australia.

We would like those who placed 'red dots' on any of these areas at the Retreat weekend to please let their CoCo reps or the Ministry Team know of their interest to contribute to the ongoing planning.

CoCo approved the appointment of Rev Deac Meg Evans as a Minister in Association and this request will go to PRC at the earliest opportunity for their approval.

Riddells Creek church repairs are nearly complete and we expect to be able to participate in the Riddells Creek expo on 25th and 26th March. The program of repairs at Woodend are progressing as well, but with yet more paperwork to be filled in... one day!!

The next meeting will be held on 2nd April at the Romsey church.

(With apologies from the editor... I seem to be a month behind in CoCo reports – do check the website for the April Report which will be available in PiP online in the next few days)

Minister led worships in May are noted in the Calendar. These Sundays Holy Communion will be taken either by Rose Broadstock or Annette Buckley. Other Sunday services across the partnership are led by local lay worship leaders as arranged by each church. There may be last minute changes to who is taking the minister led services this month.

Worship across the partnership: New weekly Sunday service times:

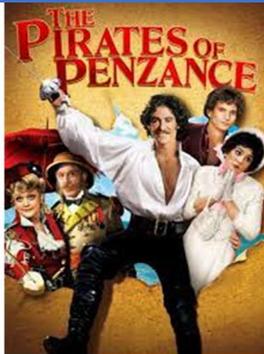
- Tylden is at 9.30am
- Gisborne is at 9:30am
- Romsey is at 9.30am
- Kyneton is at 9.30am on 1st & 3rd Sundays
- Northern Churches at 10am

National Emergency Medal – Bushfires 2019-2020

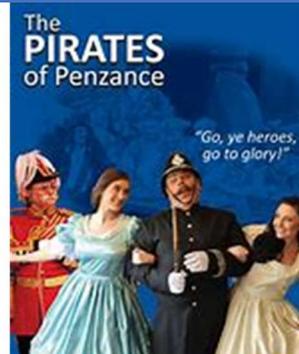
Jay Brooks was a recent recipient of the National Emergency Medal – Bushfires 2019-2020 for her service in response to the bushfire emergency. In early January 2020 Jay spent 3 days at Red Cross headquarters in North Melbourne doing data entry of information from evacuation centres in Gippsland and NSW. She was also part of the team who met the evacuees from Mallacoota as they came off the navy ship. In late January, Jay travelled to Bairnsdale as leader of the Bairnsdale Community Ready Reaction team. She was deployed there for 4 days (plus 2 days travel).

Jay says there was already a team working in support of the community who did not have the personnel to respond to extra requests for assistance. "Some of the time we were twiddling our thumbs, other times the team split and went in different directions. Standout events for me were attending a community meeting at Gelantipy, accompanying military personnel on a helicopter food drop to Combienbar (NW of Cann River) and attending a meeting of GEGAC" (Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative).

Congratulations to Jay for receiving this well-deserved recognition!
(Submission encouraged by Noel and Val Shaw)



The Pirates of Penzance



The Romsey Uniting Church
Invites you to join us for an afternoon of
music, fun and laughter
from Gilbert & Sullivan's
'The Pirates of Penzance'
performed by the Singularity Choir
Sunday, 15th May, 2022 at 1.30pm
in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall,
25 Pohlman Street Romsey
Cost: \$20.00 Concession \$15.00

RSVP. Before 5th May, 2022

Jeni Clampit 5429 5480. Mobile 0429 050 184

Email: jeniferclampit@bigpond.com Or mail to P.O. Box 264, Romsey.
3434.

Name and phone number to be supplied. Payment may be made on the day
All Covid-19 rules apply. Everyone should be fully vaccinated
Afternoon tea will be provided.



Why is PiP late this month?? Here is one of the reasons – Robyn has found a new hobby! She obtained her Paraglider (PG2) licence last week – and is now often to be found on an oval somewhere in the Macedon Ranges practicing her ground handling skills or 'kiting' her glider.

VISIT OF WARRAGUL UNITING CHURCH TO GISBORNE

A brief, but most enjoyable visit from 36 folk from the Warragul Uniting Church happened last Friday (22nd March). Having travelled by bus to meet up with congregational members who have just moved to the Macedon Ranges, they took the opportunity to sightsee and take in the beautiful autumn colours that Macedon offered. They were most appreciative of the light meal which the Partnership provided for them before they returned to Warragul. Funds raised will go either to Flood Relief or the Ukraine Appeal.

SURPRISING WHO YOU MEET IN THE GARDEN

By Bill Pugh



It was Monday. The minister's day off.
A distressed lady came to the front gate
of the manse.

A man was working in the garden.
"I need to see the minister," the lady said.

The man directed her to the front door.
She knocked and anxiously asked
to see the minister. The lady at the
door kindly invited her into the study,
promising to fetch the minister as soon
as possible.

Reflection:

Ministers are ordinary men and women who do ordinary things. Yet they are called to extraordinary service. They need our prayers. They are called to a vocation and like all of us need a vacation to recharge their spiritual batteries.

Read John 20:11-1B

And she waited in the quiet of the study,
surrounded by books.

Finally the minister came in. Clerical
collar, different shirt. He had the same
kind face as the gardener.

He held out his hand, invited her to sit
down and said "Good afternoon, my
name is ... How can I help you?"

And he listened. He understood, prayed
and promised to help.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter 3 9.30am Tylden RB	RM Begg - AB 2.30pm Faith Community				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton HC - AB	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Easter 4 9.30am Gisborne AB	2.30pm Faith Community	10am Muffin'n'More at Gisborne			10am Prayers at Gisborne	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Easter 5 9.30am Kyneton AB 1.30pm Pirates of Penzance Romsey	2.30pm Faith Community				10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	*PiP articles due tomorrow please
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Easter 6 9.30am Romsey AB Northern Congregations - TBA	1.30pm Kay's Fashion Gisborne 2.30pm Faith Community	10am Gisborne Alternative Worship AB	10am Ministers Munch – Redesdale 7pm Learning Curve @ 3 Little Pigs	Ascension of the Lord	10am Prayers at Gisborne	
29	30	31	<h1>May 2022</h1>			
Easter 7 9.30am Tylden AB (swapping with Partnership Service on 5th June)	2.30pm Faith Community					



Reconciliation Week Event

From Myths to Reality

Have you ever wondered about what you were taught at school, and just how accurate it was ?

As a teacher in the 1970s **Merredith Southee** was conscientiously teaching the prescribed history curriculum in Perth, but found that it was a manufactured history. Over the next several years Merredith was to go on a journey of discovery, culminating in her becoming an advocate for reconciliation. Merredith will take you on her journey from that of a young graduate, through the years of the 'Bringing them home' report, and to her role in rewriting the history curriculum.

May 25th 7pm for 7:30 start

3 Little Pigs Café

Shop 1/ 30A Aitken Street Gisborne

Brought to you by *Learning Curve* an initiative of Gisborne Uniting Church

Free entry



GISBORNE UNITING CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

(23 Brantome Street, Gisborne)

PRESENTS

KAY'S CLASSIC FASHIONS "WINTER PARADE"

ON MONDAY, 23rd MAY, 2022

AT 1.30 P.M. at the Church

ALL WELCOME

(Social distancing and fully vaccinated rules will apply).



**ENTRY: \$10
AFTERNOON TEA**

**DOOR PRIZES
SALES ON THE DAY**

Enquiries to Maree Clarke on 5428 3852 or 0423 051 318



Farewell for Barb Davis, Gisborne
Secondary School Chaplain
This is a photo of the current Chaplaincy
Committee taken at Barb Davis' farewell on
Sunday 20th March at Viewfield Garden in
Mt Macedon.

Back row from L to R - Bronwyn Tacey, Deb
Davey, Ann Maree Starr, Helen Doherty,
Lisa Unsworth, Sue Steward
Front Row - Graham Hall, Barb Davis, Sonja
Deveson.

(from Bron Tacey)

Address label

Partnership in Print is a monthly magazine produced by the Uniting Church in Australia – Macedon Ranges Partnership and is available on the last Sunday of each month, except December

Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	COCo REPS
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston	Church Council Executive	Marge Townrow Dot Smith
<u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebden St (PO Box 892)					Pip Elston, Lyn Ward (alt)
<u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole, Dawn Hinneberg
<u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)					
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Next Partnership in Print will be out at the end of May and I will be needing any articles, stories, photos by **Sunday 22nd May 2022**.

Please write to me at zumstein@mmnet.com.au or you can pop something in the post or my letterbox, or call – I'm happy to take notes over the phone too.

Robyn (contact details at bottom of Contact list under Z 😊)

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