



PRESBYTERY OF THE RIVERINA

Discipleship and Education Committee

Removing the stops and roadblocks to learning. Like a roundabout, D&E strives to allow for the continuous journey forward in your faith through engagement and learning.



LAY LEADER SUPPORT

The D& E Committee is keen to hear from the dedicated band of Lay Leaders who lead worship services across our Presbytery. Please reach out and let us know if there is anything we can do to support you. We are happy to look into providing specific training, learning or worship resources but would rather hear from you about what is needed.

We would also be keen to hear if there is any interest in setting up a network of contacts for lay leaders to provide mentoring and support for newer leaders and in difficult situations.

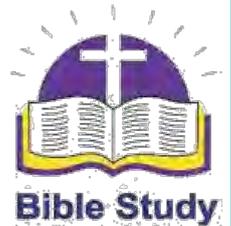
Please make contact with our Chairperson or Secretary

PRESBYTERY LIBRARY

The Presbytery library has a large section of over 30 different Bible Studies, plus resources for leading worship many with multiple copies. If congregations are unable to run a service themselves they may like to consider holding a Bible Study during their worship time.

Please contact Lorraine Hoffmann for a list of titles and more information.

Ph 0269206233 or 0427204051 or email lahoffman@bigpond.com

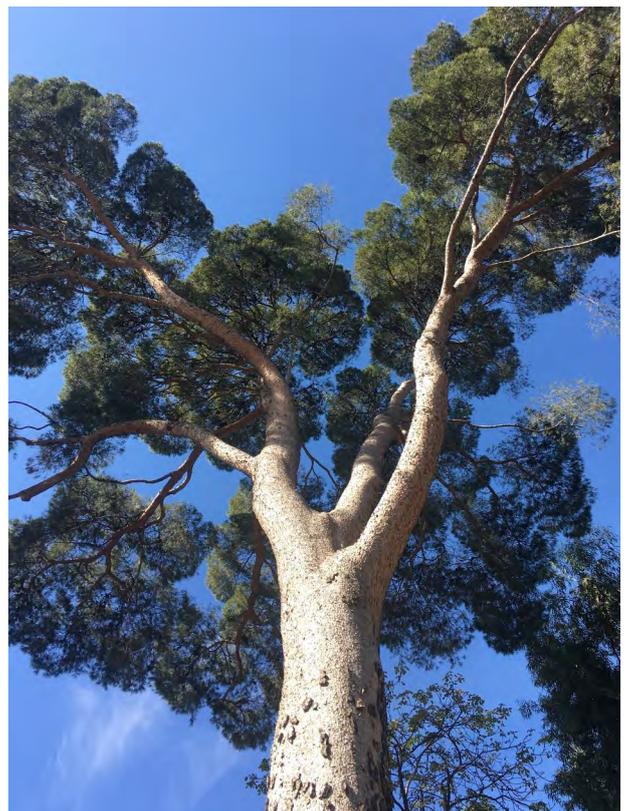


Reflection from Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea

Merton Monday

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

www.msjroscrea.ie





Rediscover and reimagine pastoral care at Soul Care 2022.

Join Uniting and the Synod of NSW & ACT for this exciting new conference, where you will be energised, inspired and equipped to bring transformative pastoral care to your church, community and school.

Discover innovative developments and practices, understand community-based approaches and explore existing ministries and programs that give you opportunities for engagement, whether in disaster relief, at school or on social media.

And get practical, with all the skills, tips and tools you'll need to take your ideas into the world. There will be keynote speakers, workshops, panel discussions, daily reflections and much more.

Soul Care is on **31 August to 2 September**, with in person and virtual ticket options available.

*"As the people of God in today's world, we want to build and support **strong, healthy communities** - and to be **equipped** and **inspired** to be effective!"*

Alongside our exciting keynote speaker sessions, each day you can choose from a series of workshops, attend Professional Supervision panel discussions, participate in daily reflections and much more.

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/soul-care-2022>



Understanding the Sacraments

August 17th - Online via Zoom

Living Our Faith Proclaiming Jesus Christ

September/October - Online via Zoom over 8 sessions

Living Our Values

September - Online via Zoom over 2 sessions

Ethical Ministry Foundation

September - Online via Zoom over 4 sessions

Mentoring for Ministry Development

September/October - Online via Zoom over 4 weekly sessions

Pulse Youth Camp 2022

September 27th Vision Valley Conference Centre

For more information and to register go to <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/>

Email: umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au Phone: 02 8838 8912

UCA Riverina Presbytery Season of Discernment Update

At the May Presbytery meeting a number of proposals were carried by consensus in relation to the Season of Discernment process that we have been engaged in. As a result of these proposals, the Standing Committee has been busy trying to move things forward. Two of the main areas of work are outlined below.

1. (Resolution 2022/2018) We wrote a letter to the Synod General Secretary requesting help to facilitate a review into the Presbytery structure and staffing to enable us to support congregations into the future. Synod has developed a new placement this year and Rev Dr Robert McFarlane has taken up this placement as the 'Presbytery Relations Minister' to work with Presbyteries across the Synod. Our letter was passed on to him and as a result the Standing Committee has had an introductory meeting with him and is in the process of organising further meetings, to which our Ministers will also be invited.

One of Rob's key focuses is to find sustainable models for different types of presbyteries across NSW/ACT. He sees this relating to finding ways to ease the governance and administrative burdens that we face as well as finding meaningful ways of being missional and outward-looking.

2. (Resolution 2022/2020) Standing Committee has appointed the Treasurer and the Property Officer to work on a model and position description for a Presbytery Administration Assistant. This work is well under way and it is hoped that this will be in place by next year.

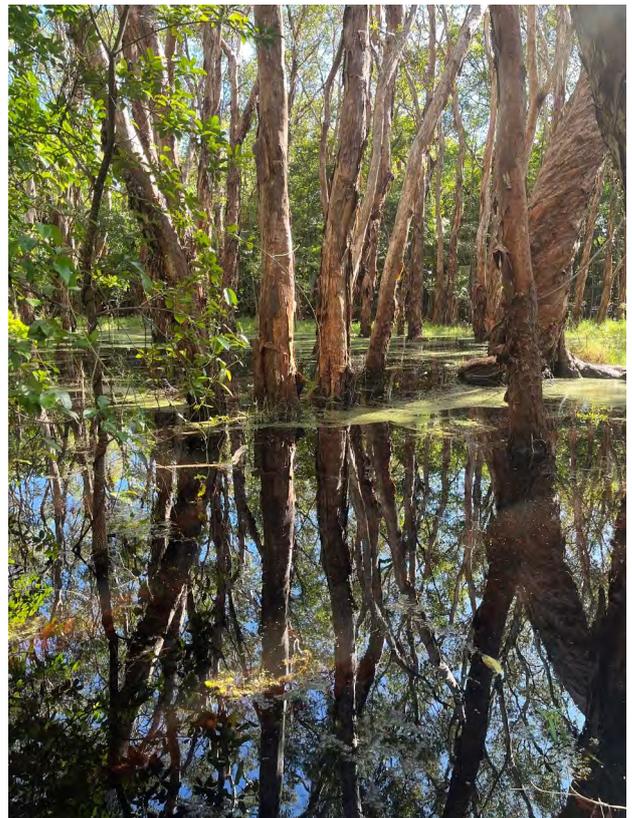
When we next meet with Rob McFarlane, we hope to bring him up to speed with what our Season of Discernment discussions discovered and begin conversations about how our needs in this area of the Uniting Church can be met. Rob will be present for two days and out of that I hope we can develop a broad outline of how to move forward. This will be explained to the August Presbytery Meeting. As Rob will be unavailable during September and October, we will be limited in what we can achieve through those months but anticipate that locally we can keep things moving so that we might have some proposals available to put to the November Presbytery meeting.

The Standing Committee is hopeful that sufficient decisions will be made in November to enable some changes to be implemented in February 2023.

Other issues that are being discussed include looking at ways to provide a Pastoral Presbytery Minister ½ time to work alongside our ministry people (ordained and lay) and investigating other options for extra support for the Presbytery.

We hope to have more information available on these issues at the next Presbytery meeting on 20th August. This will be a zoom meeting.

Dorothy Creek
Riverina Presbytery Chairperson.



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD The Season of Creation in the month of September

With Love to the World is a locally-produced resource which provides short commentaries on the biblical passages offered in the Revised Common Lectionary, which is used by mainstream denominations of the Christian church around the world. The publication seeks to prepare people to think about the passages in the week before they hear them in Sunday worship.

The next issue of With Love to the World will contain material submitted by a group of contributors who have been working with the usual four lectionary passages, but also with an additional three biblical texts which feed into the overall theme of Creation. These passages have been chosen because this theme is the focus for the month of September each year in churches around the world.

This year, the Creation theme has been expanded to include, not only the four Sundays of September, but also the weeks around September, from Pentecost 11 (in mid August) through to Pentecost 23, just before the festival of the Reign of Christ brings the church year to an end in November. As a complement to the four passages offered each week from the Revised Common Lectionary (Hebrew Scripture, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel), a further three passages are included in each week's selection of seven passages for reading and reflection. These additional three passages are all drawn from Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). These scriptures have their origins in a culture and society which was closely connected to the land, where people lived in harmony with the annual cycle of agricultural seasons. Their intimate knowledge of land, sea, and sky is reflected in the understanding of animals, fish, and birds, and in the knowledge of "events of nature".

This extended Season of Creation issue of With Love to the World is intended to assist readers to grapple with how their lifestyle and their personal practices cohere with the need to respect the creation and to live a life that lessens their carbon footprint. Scripture encourages and challenges us in this regard. The series of passages through the 13 weeks are intended to build a strong understanding of God's love for the creation, and God's expectation that people of faith will live with ecological responsibility.

The 14 contributors are theologically-astute, environmentally-active people from five states across the continent, who have written thoughtful and informed commentaries on the passages for the week. The issue begins with a reflection on the creation story of Genesis 1 from a First Peoples perspective. Each week, a different writer invites us to consider how scripture informs our discipleship and can shape our environmental awareness and action.

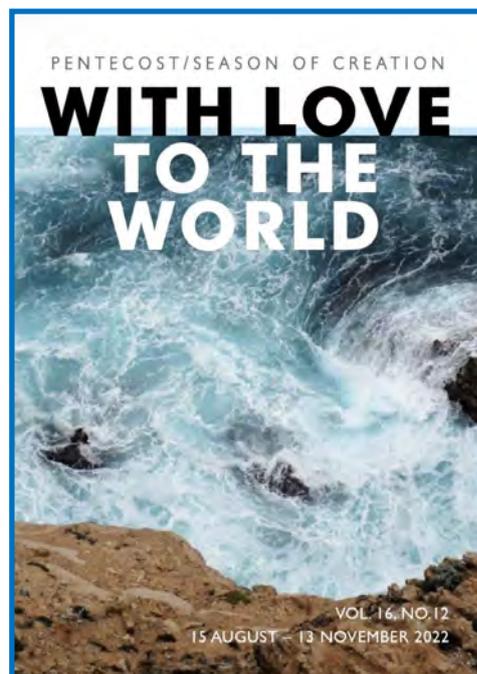
If you are looking for a way to focus your thinking on how to live in harmony with the whole creation, and deepen your discipleship practices of sustainability and environmental responsibility, through a daily reflection on a scripture passage—why not subscribe to With Love to the World?

[With Love to the World](#) can be ordered as a printed resource for just \$24 a year or it can be accessed on phones and iPads via an App, for a subscription of \$24.49 per year (go to the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)).

For subscription enquiries, contact Trevor Naylor on 02 9747 1369 or wluca@bigpond.com

For a discussion of the biblical passages used in the Creation 2022 issue, <https://johntsquires.com/2022/05/29/the-season-of-creation-in-with-love-to-the-world/>

The resource has a webpage at www.withlovetotheworld.org.au; you can see a sample of a WLW page at [Using WLW - With Love to the World](#) and there is information about ordering at [Ordering - With Love to the World](#)



Reflection

May you recognize in your life the presence, power, and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your individuality and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the façade of your life, there is something beautiful and eternal happening.

By John Donohue

Excerpt from the blessing, 'For Solitude,' from his books: *Benedictus (Europe)* / *To Bless the Space Between Us (US)* Ordering Info: <https://johnodonohue.com/store>



Persevering in Faith

Life is unsettling. We want easy answers, and they are usually elusive. We want to understand a world that often defies explanation. But maybe that's not the point. Maybe we would do well to let go of the things that weigh us down and persevere, looking at the example of Jesus, who did not give up in proclaiming the message of God's justice. How readily can you set things aside and move forward?

Excerpt from *Seasons of The Spirit* Pentecost 1, 2022



PRESBYTERY WEBSITE

New resources available for service leaders and lay Preachers. For all the latest on upcoming events check often to keep up to date. <https://riverina.unitingchurch.org.au/>

D & E CONTACT INFO

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