



# Reflections

June '21

Seek Growth



Find



Life



Know love

**What's On This Month**     **June 2021 Page 1**

**Morning Service 10am is LIVE at church**  
**Evening Service 6.30pm is LIVE at church**

**Lunch at the Petersham RSL returns**  
**3rd week each month @**  
**12pm June 20**

**Let's come together**  
**to welcome**

**Rev Greg Smith to our pulpit**

At MCC Sydney we are so fortunate to have such dedicated and long standing Preachers.

One of these is Rev Greg who has been associated with MCC Sydney since the late 70's. He is well loved and appreciated for his flamboyant and emotive preaching style and can have us laughing one moment and have us in quiet tears the next. Come along and hear him preach on:



**20/06/2021 Sarah de Rooy AM**  
**Rev Greg Smith PM**  
**18/07/2021 Rev Greg Smith**  
**both services**

## What's Happening In the Community Room?

Lee and Donna had a plan. They prayed about it and then took action (with Board approval). The grubby old carpet tiles have gone.



## Editor's Corner

**A message from Helen McAlley**  
**Interim Pastor of MCC Melbourne**

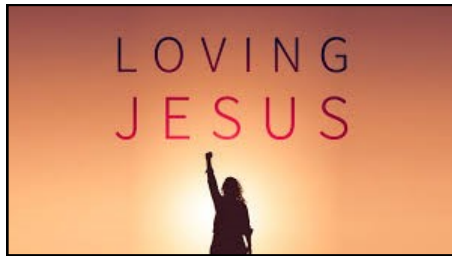
When we receive Jesus as our Saviour and also the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives us gifts. These supernatural gifts include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, preaching, teaching, pastoral care, hospitality, helping others etc. (See 1 Corinthians 12-14). However, unlike many gifts, the gifts of the Spirit are not given to benefit us. They are given for the benefit of the church. Everyone has at least one spiritual gift. If you are not sure what you have been given, maybe ask another Christian because sometimes our spiritual gift is more obvious to someone else than it is to ourselves.

Are you willing to use your spiritual gift to bless others? This can involve sacrifice. Jesus spoke about taking up our cross daily and by that He meant being obedient to God in whatever way He shows us. The Way is sharing our faith and blessing others both in the church and in the world; It is being a channel of God's blessing to others. In our church just now, we are in need of people who can use their God-given gifts so that the church can function more effectively. What holds us back? Maybe we are waiting on God to answer a prayer we have made. While we are doing that, we can do good for someone else. God blesses us when we bless others. We do not bless others to be blessed. We care for them because they are in need. But our generous God does bless us when we are caring for others. Is there anything God is calling you to do that would be a blessing to others in the church? May God bless you all.

## THE LOVE ABOVE ALL LOVES

Matthew 10: 37-39

*If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it. (NLT)*



Jesus said lots of comforting, reassuring things. This saying isn't one of them. At first glance it seems a

monstrous egotistical demand that relegates our deepest human relationships to the sidelines. Are we being commanded to discard our families and simply focus on Jesus? Are we meant to dismiss our personalities and dreams and plans and become some sort of anonymous robot following a demanding tyrant?

Not really. Jesus often overstates a case to make a point. He puts things in very radical terms to have us see what the issues are. Here he is saying that love of him is the **overarching love which gives meaning and purpose to every other love in our lives**. Including the deepest loves. The one who commanded us to love others is not about to command us to hate those closest to us.

Nor is he trying to reduce us to nonentities. Losing our lives does not mean forsaking our unique identities. It means that all our pursuits and passions in life are to be placed under the umbrella of overall devotion to Jesus.

In other words, make him number one and all else fall into their proper places. Love and devotion to him is the context within which we love others and devote ourselves to living a fulfilling life. Jesus is not speaking of love and hate, but of the right ordering of love itself.

Blessings David Reay

## *I believe God wants you to know*

... that you are not the things you do,  
but the way you are being.

Your State of Being is the way you express your very definition of self. This has nothing to do with what you are doing, what you have done, or what you imagine you will do in the future. It has to do with the quality and the essence of the energy that emanates from you right now. Is it love, or is it fear? Everything you express emerges from one of these two starting points. Yet you can return to love, as Marianne Williamson famously wrote, at any time you wish. For each day, each moment, offers a new beginning.

*Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch*

## *A Blessing For You*

May you find blessing when you experience burnout and all your resources seem to be used up and your reserves depleted. When you are reduced to your core, may you discover there the image of God who loves you and receives you even in your emptiness. May you be blessed with time to gaze upon God's image in you and be replenished and brought back to life by what God has planted deep within you. May the God of Time bless you.

Maxine Shonk, OP

## *Farewell to Marc*

We wish Marc RN all the very best in his next adventure in Queensland where he intends to take on a new course of study. Thank you Marc for your friendship and for your willingness to get involved.





### ***A Generous Donation***

Thank you to Paul Chapdelaine for donating this enormous Rainbow flag to MCCS. It is in great condition and will be a welcome addition to any of our Mardi Gras floats, protests and/or displays. Hopefully we will be able to get it up on a wall soon. ❤️



### ***Do you have some spare time on a Thursday and would like to help your Church?***

You may have noticed there have been a few changes happening. Floorboards are the go in the Community Room. The Church Office is being cleaned and revamped and it needs a lick of paint. How can you help?

- \* Volunteer to help us empty the office in order to paint
- \* Help us do the prep work and then paint
- \* Donate extra funds so that we can buy the paint.
- \* Encourage the volunteers doing the work

**We are all the Church.  
How are you being called to serve**



### ***CRAVE MCC has moved to the City.***

**CRAVE** is now holding Worship within the beautiful St Stephen's Uniting Church @ 4pm 197 Macquarie Street. Across the road from NSW Parliament House

500m South of Circular Quay  
250m North of Hyde Park  
Congratulations CRAVE MCC



### ***The fruit of the Spirit***

Love  
joy,  
peace,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness,  
self-control



against such things there is no law. (ESV)  
Galatians 5:22-23



## **PENTECOST**

### **What is it?**

**Pentecost** literally means "50"

It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks...50 days after Easter. It represented the beginning of a new age where the **Holy Spirit** made salvation available to the Gentiles, not by conforming to Jewish Law, but through faith and repentance in Jesus Christ. A very BIG deal huh?

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It's so easy to pay electronically. Or use PAYPAL



### Direct Deposit Details:

BSB: 082-048  
Account: 509412200  
Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney

### Fast Payments:

PayID: treasurer@mccsydney.org  
BSB: 082-356  
Account: 780 749 9652  
Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney

### *CRAVE Church Christmas In July*

Annual fundraising

## Christmas In July

will be held at our new home at St Stephen's Uniting Church:

<https://fb.me/e/1eAzLldRo>

The cost will be \$60/40 and \$10 for a child.

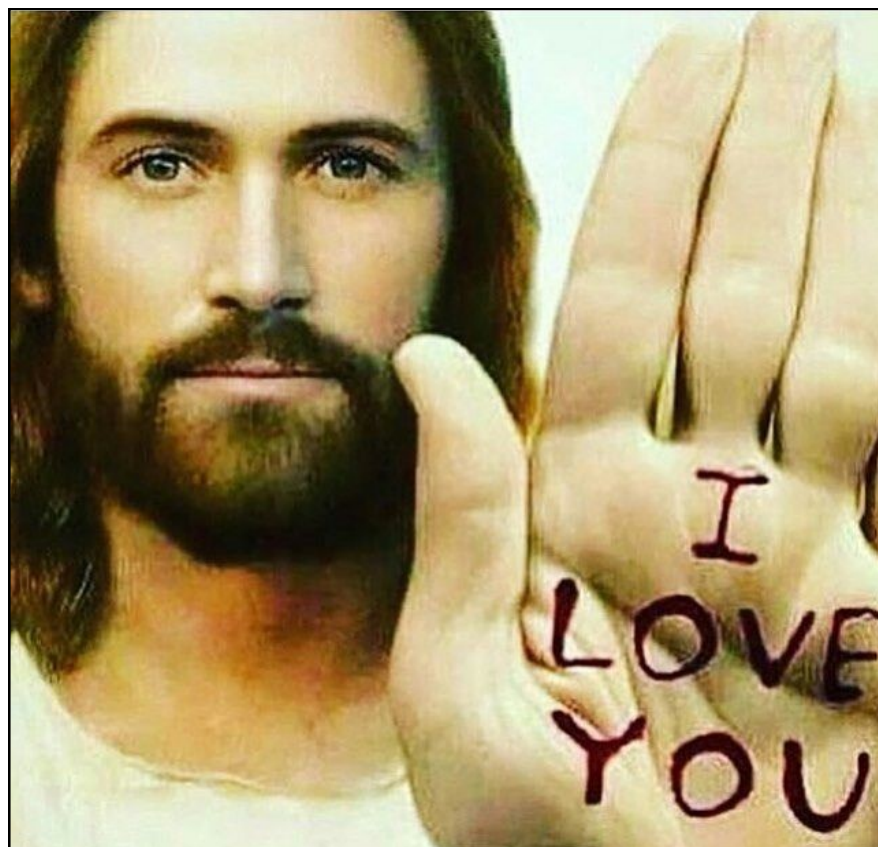
There is a link to the booking form:

<https://crave.wufoo.com/forms/p1ih9onp0ad4gou/>

It would be lovely if you could come!



*The Bottom Line Is This...Always and Forever*



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### Board of Directors

Rev Gavin Ward Acting Chair

Sarah de Rooy Secretary

[secretary@mccsydney.org](mailto:secretary@mccsydney.org)

Paul Houghton Lay Delegate

Graeme Bartlett Treasurer

Donna Sturgeon Member

Wayne Chilver Member

**Reflections Items to the Editor**  
[newsletter@mccsydney.org](mailto:newsletter@mccsydney.org)

**Questions re Events,**  
[office@mccsydney.org](mailto:office@mccsydney.org)

**MCC Good Shepherd, Granville**  
**Tuesday @ 7pm**

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

[mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com](mailto:mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com)

**CRAVE MCC, Sydney City**  
**Sunday @ 4pm**

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

[redchiron@gmail.com](mailto:redchiron@gmail.com)



### Disability access

is via Crystal St  
**Hearing Loop** is  
connected.



### Parent's Room

is currently closed due to COVID

**Morning Tea & Supper** will be served  
in the Foyer and Community Room

**Everyone is welcome IN CHURCH**  
**OR LIVE on Facebook**