

Mark's Musings

As you read this I will be on a plane to Canberra for another round of training for my Army Chaplaincy Ministry (15-31 May). This reminds me that a year has passed since we lost a faithful friend in Jan Kershaw - when I returned from this same course to attend to her grieving family. Such anniversaries are pastorally important and I'd encourage you to use your best efforts to recall them for yourselves and help others mark them appropriately. This is a sign of our commitment to caring as a church community which we can all be part of.

After Canberra, Jan and I are taking some extended leave in Canada visiting our youngest daughter Megan (studying for the Ministry at Regent College, Vancouver) and her husband Charlie. We'll also visit other parts of including Toronto – and connect with our sister denomination, The United Church of Canada. I have for many years appreciated their rich worship resources through a magazine called '*Gathering*' - some of this treasure has flowed into what we enjoy from time to time here!

The image of Jesus from Sunday's gospel (Jn10:1-11) as the gate for sheep helps us understand the way to travel through life. A gate is the means in which to travel from paddock to paddock, can open when needed, is easy to get through, offers protection when closed as well as safe parameters in which to enjoy and find nourishment. If Jesus is the gate and we are the sheep, that would make the paddocks the milestones of our lives. We journey through the paddocks of life, from childhood, through adolescence and adulthood, when the time is right, Jesus opens the gate and shows us the way to the next paddock in which we continue the journey with God.

St John's welcomes Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood as our part-time Supply Minister during this period. D'Arcy is known to many of us from his previous visits and we are indeed fortunate to have such an accomplished minister serve with us at St John's. You may contact D'Arcy by email: harold.wood@bigpond.com or Phone 5428 3040 or Mobile 0408 542 830 if you have any pastoral needs.

Enjoy D'Arcy's ministry and please keep us in your prayers as we travel through various 'paddocks'. Jan and I will be back after our Holidays/Long Service Leave and hopefully you will experience the benefits of this time of rest and refreshment for your minister.

Have a blessed week!
Grace & peace, **Mark**