

Day of Pentecost 19th May <i>Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14</i> <i>Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</i> <i>Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21</i> <i>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</i>	Trinity Sunday 26th May <i>Isaiah 6:1-8 and</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Romans 8:12-17</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>
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Sunday 19 May - 8:30 am Rev Darren King

Sunday 26 May - 8:30 am Rev James Stevenson

Please join us in the Hall after the service for morning tea

From this month's Uniting News

This month, we ask ourselves: What is the firm ground on which we stand together? What is it in our history and identity that can inspire us to hope and renewal?

We are Uniting - we are one church centred on Jesus Christ... One church of many parts, many places, many people. We are a church for all, a church with purpose, a church with informed faith, and a church committed to a covenantal relationship with First Nations people. We are the people of God on the way to the promised end. (Basis of Union)

When things go Wrong.

'To give them beauty for ashes.' Isaiah 61:3

The world is not going to devote itself to making you happy. Only when you accept that, can you begin to move forward. Life doesn't always work the way you want it to. Paul wrote, *'I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain.'* (Romans 15:24) But it seems unlikely he ever got to Spain; instead he landed in one of the worst prisons in Europe. But from there he wrote the epistles. Your disappointment may turn out to be God's appointment. The Bible says, *'We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.'* (Prov 16:9) Aren't you glad He's in control of your life? Let the philosophers argue over why life works as it does. Just focus on how to live it! If you live to be 100, what good is it anyway if resentment and regret keep you from enjoying it? And what good is more time, if you're only killing the time you've got? Remember how an oyster makes a pearl? When a grain of sand gets into its shell and irritates it, instead of resisting and resenting it, the oyster wraps it in layer after layer of beauty, till a pearl is formed. An unknown poet said,

*'Now this tale has a moral, for isn't it grand
what an oyster can do with a morsel of sand.
What couldn't we do if we'd only begin,
with some of the things that get under our skin.'*

God is working in everything you're going through today, for your good and His glory. All you need to do is trust Him. If you do, He'll give you beauty for ashes.

From Word for Today 3/11 2023

