Roseville New Church, 4, Shirley Road, Roseville, NSW 2069

CHURCH BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2026

Each Church Bulletin will come out online or get to you posted before the end of the previous month. If anything is to go into the next one, it needs to be with me by the previous 25th, please. Feel free to contact me on 0427 938 732 or julian@duckworth.me Thanks, Julian

Minister's Message

If you could come into our downstairs – our garage and storage – you'd see that 95% of it is 'containers' – boxes, bags, chests, pigeonholes, freezer, shelving. I guess that's all very normal.

The point of containers is to contain, and the great need is to know what is where. Unlabelled closed boxes can drive you insane…

We are containers too. We've got things in our bodies, much (too much?) in our minds, all kinds of feelings in our hearts, and connections with God in our spirits. Our task is to manage them all well, and with our spirit, we need to know it, recognise changes, monitor it honestly, and ask God to look after it while we are looking after it too. Our spirit is in connection with things good and bad, heaven and hell, and it's like the window on our soul. God tries to keep our spirit in perfect balance which gives us our freedom to keep choosing and deciding what we will allow and have in it. Our spirit contains our conscious life, and our soul contains the presence and dwelling-place of God.

My cup runneth over. Using the image of a cup, I know that sometimes I'm a used-up regular plastic takeaway, sometimes a mug (!), sometimes a glass, rarely a goblet, but never a chalice.

They each have their rightful place in me, and while they are all the same general shape, their quality and suitability is determined by what goes into them, lukewarm instant coffee to best Barossa Valley wine. So, this means that I need to choose my 'container' to go with my 'content', but also my 'content' quality will display me being in this or that 'container' … If I'm drawing on heaven, … if I am drawing on a hell.

The Bible is full of all this. It's like a container load storage area, packed with more than you can count. Try this one – "Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart." And this – "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." But Matthew 13's parables do it really well – Seeds sown in the ground, wheat and tares in the field, mustard seed, yeast in flour, hidden treasure, the pearl of great price, the cast dragnet catching many fish.

We do need our tin-opener!

Julian

Update on Rachel and her ministry here

With our formal invitation to Rachel and her acceptance of this, things are now beginning to move forward with making the arrangements. First, though, it is good to let you know that

Rachel has been invited to come to the January 2027 retreat at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney, and she has indicated her wish to be there with us. One of the benefits of this will be that Rachel will be meeting a wider and representative set of people from around Australia and also New Zealand.
In addition, the careful work of creating the formal contract between Rachel and us has begun, as has the visa process, using a migration lawyer that the Sydney Society has used before. These are painstaking items requiring a lot of detail and attention. Those involved deserve our appreciation and thanks. As all of these move forward, we will keep everyone informed. It is important to know that Rachel will be able to come over to Roseville several months into 2027. We also wish Rachel well in managing her end of all this needful change and implementation.

Services in October, November, and through December

Julian will be taking the service in Roseville on Sunday, October 4th which will include the Holy Supper. There will be a service on Sunday, October 17th and the leader is to be confirmed. Thank you to Wayne Kasmar for taking the September 20th service and to Joe for providing the music for it.

Julian will also be taking the service on Sunday, November 1st, again including the Holy Supper and there will be a service on Sunday, November 15th, to be arranged.

The Christmas services will work the other way around, with a service taken by someone on Sunday, December 6th. Julian and Ruth will come down to Sydney later in December and Julian will take the service on Sunday, December 20th. Please note that this will be followed by Christmas lunch in the hall, and there will be more information about this in the next church Bulletin.

We haven't covered the ground into next year yet, but when we have, we will tell you.

News for October from the Swedenborg Centre

See the website at https://swedenborg.com.au/ for event details, news and Zoom links to join events when each event begins. Here are the calendar events for October.

Swedenborg discussions: every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm. Bring your conversation topic or question about your spiritual path, struggle and life.

Swedenborg reading and exploration: every Wednesday from 10am to noon. Learn some amazing insights from Swedenborg's True Christianity (a.k.a. True Christian Religion).

Hoping your October will be a pleasant month.
Joe Vandermeer, Swedenborg Centre

Being a Brick



When you say someone has been a real brick, you mean that they have done something for you very well, made no fuss, and they've seen it through to completion. BUT Look at a brick…
Each brick has a top and a bottom, a front and a back, and a left side and a right side. So do we. We have our spiritual top and our 'this world' bottom, our front is our aim and goal, our back is our successes and failures so far, our two sides are what we take in from around us to help us on our journey.
Keep building!