



The Lost Cause

Dear Heathmont UCA:

As I have had to spend this week attending to a significant family matter, I have not been able to prepare a reflection.

However, I did spot a brief reflection in the ABC Religion and Ethics page which was a reflection on the moral courage of Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny. As you are aware, Navalny recently died in a Russian Arctic prison camp under highly suspicious circumstances that are regarded by most world leaders as evidence of his murder by the regime of Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Navalny had previously been the subject of a murder attempt by poisoning; and upon his return to Russia after recovering his health, had been arrested by the Putin regime for alleged crimes that are also widely regarded as fabrications.

Why would Navalny persist in his opposition to Putin's seemingly unstoppable tyranny? This article discusses that question, and raises the argument that we must be prepared to abandon the idea of "winnability" and "practicality" if we are to be truly human participants in the life of the world - that "lost causes" are just as important for how we remember history and what actually matters in human life as the triumphant stories of "winners" and the "successful".

This idea represents a radical challenge to modernity's notion of the "successful" autonomous self-realising individual who shapes the world to suit themselves. I would also suggest, in this Easter season, that it represents the heart of Christian faith and the figure of the "loser" Jesus who was executed as a political criminal and who thus failed every conventional measure of "success". In this sense, Navalny can be thought of as a Christ-like figure, irrespective of what his faith identity might have been.

To read the article, [click this link](#).

Remember In Your Prayers

Please remember in your prayers:

- Margaret O'Duill, who is recovering from recent surgery on her right arm; and
- The family of Fred Allison, who passed away last week

HUC Annual Report

For those folk who were not able to attend the AGM last Sunday, attached is a copy of the 2023 HUC Annual Report. To read the report, please [click this link](#).

Worship This Sunday

Worship this Sunday will be led by Caz Coleman. Please come along and support Caz in her ministry to the congregation.

Presbytery Newsletter

The latest edition of the Presbytery Newsletter is now available in a new format

and re-branded as PYY News.. To read, please [click this link](#).

CPP Presents - Little Women

The CPP will be presenting the stage version of Louisa May Alcott's classic, "Little Women". Performances begin on April 5th, and include a mix of evening, matinee, and early afternoon shows. Full details can be found by [clicking this link](#).

Pew Polishing

As mentioned at church recently, I will be making a start on polishing the pews on March 6th at 9.30 am and continue on through the month of March when hopefully we will have done all the wooden furniture we have in the worship space. Chair cleaning is also on the agenda and will be done during the School Holidays perhaps in early April when there are no CLC classes.

- Glenis McDonald

Blessings,

Brendan



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