

A Special Welcome

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are L, G, B, T, I, Q or straight. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, to skinny as a rake, or who could afford to lose a few kilograms.

We welcome you if you sing like Pavarotti or those who can't carry a note in a bucket. You are welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up, or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the President of the Uniting Church, or haven't been in church since little Hugh's baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but haven't grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians; and junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or who are still addicted.

We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps, or if you don't like organised religion – we've been there too!

We welcome you if you're new to Australia and still trying to work out what this crazy country is on about. We're wondering too.

If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, who work too hard, or don't work, who can't spell, or who are here because granny is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or who got lost on the Westgate Bridge and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts...

.....and you.