

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Alpha 2014

We are invited to the 2014 Alpha Course which will be held at the Springdale Neighbourhood Centre over 10 weeks starting on 23 April, 6.30 pm to 9 pm. This includes an evening meal.

If you have never experienced Alpha, go and find out what it is all about. If you have been to Alpha, you could introduce it to a friend, or have another look yourself.

Information: Anna. 0402019529.

Postponement of Essendon Choral Society PSA

Due to a scheduling problem at the Essendon Choral Society end, the *Pleasant Sunday Afternoon* previously advertised for Sunday 4th May, will now take place on Sunday 22nd June, same time (2-30pm), same place (Port Church Hall) and same price \$12. We warmly invite all members of the Linked Congregations to mark this date in their diaries and join us and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of quality choral music.

Further details from Barry Ruler on 5259 3304.

Spare Wool?

If any members of the congregation have spare wool that you no longer have any use for, Pam Love would appreciate it. If you have some please contact Margo Jones who will pass it on, phone 5257 1221.

Rosters for 13th April

Portarlington

Managers: Bruce & Merylyn Bertram

Morning Tea: Ken & Elaine Farnell

Pastoral Care: Rev. Margaret Manning

Prayer: Rev. Margaret Manning

Reader: Lorraine Hughes

Communion (prep / serve) Lorraine Hughes (prep), Cath Eagleson

Communion (serve): David Hughes, Alex Eagleson

PowerPoint: Pammi Pryor

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Graeme's team

Counting: Val Lestrangle

10.45 am:

Duty Elder: Ken Handley

Prayers: Ken Handley

Reading: Pat Handley

Door: M. Grieve

Morning Tea: M. Grieve & M. MacGillivray

Flowers: Win Baker

St Leonards – 9.00 am combined service with Anglican church

Brass and Flowers: Judy Godfrey

Lent 5

Sunday, 6 April 2014

For many people, tragedy is what happens to someone else. News of death and disaster comes through the television and we are isolated from the real pain. In the same way, we become isolated from the intense hope and longing for rescue that is expressed by the psalmist. All four readings have reference to being raised up to new life: Lazarus and Ezekiel's bones from physical death, the psalmist from the depths of anguish and despair, and the Christians in Rome from the flesh to the Spirit. Through each reading we are aware of the Breath-Spirit-Word of God moving to bring restoration and renewal.

Seasons of the Spirit

LECTIONARY

6 April Lent 5	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Romans 8: 6-11	Psalm 130 John 11: 1-45
13 April Palm Sunday	Matthew 21: 1-11 Liturgy of the Palms	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 6 April

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev. Margaret Manning

St Leonards

5.00 pm Rev. Marion Latham

Drysdale

9:00 am Worship@9 Rev. Marion Latham (Denise's team assisting), *Loose change & Food Bank*

10:45 am Rev Marion Latham, *Loose change & Food bank*

Monday, 7 April

9.30 am KYB

7:30 pm Lenten Study

Tuesday 8 April

7.30 pm Toolbox Parenting Program

Wednesday, 9 April

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

Thursday, 10 April

9.00 am Drysdale & Portarlington
Choir practices

Saturday 12 April

7:30 am Portarlington Fellowship
Breakfast

Sunday, 13 April

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev. Margaret Manning, HC,
Loose change & Food bank

St Leonards

9:00 am Combined Service with
Anglican Church, Holy
Communion

Drysdale

9:00 am Worship@9 Denise's team
10:45 am Mrs. Pat Williams

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Information on church activities

If you missed getting the page of Information on Church Activities, there are still copies in the foyer.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Studies will continue on Mondays 7th and 14th April. The study is titled 'The Way'.

Lenten Bible Study DVD

If you were not able to go to the Lenten Study the DVD of 'The Way' is available for borrowing after 14 April. There are also spare copies of the devotional books that go with it. Let Marion know if you want to borrow these to use at home.

Amendment to Preaching Plan for Drysdale

Please note, on Sunday, 20 April, Easter Day, at Drysdale there will be two services. 9.00 am Worship @ 9 with Graeme's Team and 10.45 am with Rev. Marion Latham.

Name badges

Members of the congregation are encouraged to wear their name badges. This makes it easier for people to greet you and make conversation. If you don't have a name badge or would like to purchase a new one please contact Vera Mills, phone 5253 2689 or email vera.mills.cs@gmail.com.

PORTARLINGTON

Portarlington U.C.A.F.

The U.C.A.F. will meet on Monday 14 April at 1.30 pm in the meeting room when the subject will be 'Wedding Days Remembered'. Please bring photos, memories and other items of interest connected to weddings, both our own and of other generations and cultures. Everyone welcome.

Advance Notice for Your Diaries:

St Andrew's Portarlington *Justice & Mission Ministry Team* is once again holding a 'Focus on Asylum Seeker' Week' in May. At the 9.00 am Sunday service on 4th May there will be prayers and reflections on this issue.

On Wednesday 7th May, A 'Community Fund Raising Dinner' will be held at 6.30 pm Speaker: Sue Longmore AOM, a founding member of Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees, has been active in personally assisting asylum seekers and refugees for the past ten years.

Then to conclude the week on Saturday 10th May at 7.30 am the 'Fellowship Breakfast' speaker will be Sr. Brigid Arthur CBS. Sr. Brigid is a founding member of the Melbourne based 'Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project'; more details in later Newsletters.

Please mark the dates in your diary, plan to attend and be better informed on these important issues.

Portarlington Fellowship Breakfast

The next breakfast meeting will be on Saturday 12th April, commencing at 7.30 am. Guest Speakers will be David & Lorraine Hughes who will tell us of their trip to Europe late last year.

All members of the Linked Congregations are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 10th April.

Shouting at stones

John 11: 1-45

Weeping One, incarnate Son,
You come into the long lament life;
Bound and broken;
You

Who is the love
That will be sent
To meet death with anointed feet

Weeping one, incarnate Son,
You shout a grief-gravelled
'Come out',
Thrown at death's stone
That locks us in dark's tomb
And keeps us from love's womb,
And makes us die alone

Weeping one, incarnate Son,
Come and shout
At all the stones that seal us tight;
And as they roll away
Enter our darkness
With the undying light
Of your eternal day

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