

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

blessed are you

Matthew 5:1-14

blessedness basks
at the dark and dangerous edges
of this life
and suffocates
in the secure and safe centre

viable in the vulnerable
she becomes
impossible in the self-sufficiency
of winner-take-all

her righteousness
consists of wanting
the immanence of love
for all people
not some private, passive,
inane, individual
morality

her hands
are always open

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Rosters for 9 February

Portarlington

Managers: Marg Hutcheon, Sue Handley, Peter Gibbs

Morning Tea: David & Elizabeth Thompson

Pastoral Care & Prayers: Elaine Farnell

Reader: Margaret Campbell

PowerPoint: Joy Porter

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Denise's Team

Counting: Colleen Diamond

10.45 am

Duty Elder & Prayers: Bob Stevenson

Readings: Win Baker

Door: Margaret MacGillivray

Flowers: Vera Mills

St Leonards

Combined Service Anglican

Brass & Flowers: Wyn Moriarty, Marie Alexander



Epiphany 4

Sunday, 2 February 2014

The theme of reversal emerges in today's readings. In Matthew's Beatitudes, Jesus proclaims blessing and reversal of fortune to the lowly and meek, the very ones the world takes for granted. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the foolishness of the cross, however antithetical to the world's understanding, is the wisdom and power of God. God and Micah dialogue about the sad history of rejection and conflict between God and the Israelites, and then Micah reminds his listeners that reconciliation emerges not from "right offerings" or perfect worship, but rather from righteous living—through justice, compassion, and humility. None of these reversals is a new prophecy, but rather a reversal of the misconceptions we tend to live by—misconceptions born of relying on ourselves and on worldly wisdom for guidance.

Abingdon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

2 February	Micah 6: 1-8	Psalm 15
Epiphany 4	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Matthew 5: 1-12
9 February	Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112: 1-9 (10)
Epiphany 5	1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5: 13-20

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 2 February

Portarlington

9.00 am Keith Pigdon

Drysdale

10.15 am Combined service, followed by Annual Congregation Meeting and Election of Elders, then a shared lunch. Rev Marion Latham. HC, *Loose change & food bank.*

St Leonards

7.00 pm Rev Marion Latham

Monday, 3 February

9.00 am KYB begins

7.30 pm Drysdale Growing and Learning Team

Tuesday, 4 February

7.30 pm Portarlington Worship Committee

Wednesday, 5 February

9.30am – 12.30 pm mainly music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

7.30 pm Portarlington G&L&COER

Thursday, 6 February

9.00 am Drysdale & Portarlington Choir practices

7.30 pm Drysdale Pastoral Care Team

Friday, 7 February

9.15 am – 10.00 am Friday School

9.30 am Portarlington Justice & Mission

Saturday, 8 February

7.30 am Portarlington Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, 9 February

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Ian Porter,
loose change and food bank

Drysdale

9.00 am Café Church

10.45 am Pat Williams

St Leonards

9.00am Combined Anglican HC

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Election of elders

Nominations for elder positions have been received from:

Vince King
John MacGillivray
Ian McLaverty
Jenni Nickelson

The formal election will take today at the Annual Congregation Meeting, directly after the service. After which all are encouraged to stay for fellowship and a shared lunch.

Borrowing Library

Our borrowing library has been reviewed and indexed. On the table today there is a selection of books that have been removed from the Library. Please have a look and take any you would like to keep.

Congratulations

Ruby Wylie gives thanks to God for the birth of her 16th great grandchild - Caitlyn Jade Preston.

PORTARLINGTON

Portarlington Fellowship Breakfast

Our first breakfast meeting for the New Year is on Saturday 8 February, commencing at 7.30 am.

Guest Speaker will be Dr. Ross Farnell (Son of Elaine & Ken.) The title of Ross's address will be "Building & Running an Arts Centre in the Dandenong Ranges".

All members of the Linked Congregations and friends are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler by Thursday evening 6 February on 5259 3304.

Annual Elections and Annual Congregation Meeting

The Portarlington Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday 9 March, immediately following worship. Morning Tea will follow the annual meeting.

Election of Office Bearers for the congregation will take place at the meeting and nominations will be taken from the floor.

After 11 years as our Presbytery Representative, Lorraine Hughes is retiring from this important position. Lorraine has been a wonderful representative, always bringing back to Church Council very full and interesting reports. Our thanks go to Lorraine for a job very well done. We are now calling for a new Presbytery Representative to be elected to that position. The job

entails attending Presbytery Meetings during the year (these are generally held on a Saturday several times a year) and reporting back to Church Council. The Presbytery Rep becomes a member of Church Council.

Any member interested should speak to either Lorraine Hughes (Chair Congregation) David Hughes, (Chair Church Council) or Barry Ruler (Secretary.) Please give this position serious consideration.

There is no need for an election for Church Council this year (other than for the Presbytery Rep.) as no other church councillor's term expires.

A reminder to Ministry Team leaders that your annual report should be emailed to Barry Ruler (bruler@bigpond.com) by no later than 14 February 2014, so that the Annual Report can be put together in time for the Annual Meeting.

U.C.A.F.

The Commitment Service to start the U.C.A.F. year is on Monday, 10th February at 1.30pm in the church. Everyone is invited to share in this start of activities for 2014. The offering will be donated to a clinic providing eye care in Vanuatu. Afternoon tea will follow the service. For any queries, contact Elizabeth on 5259 2442.

Portarlington Fellowship Lunch

A note for your diary - lunch at the Portarlington Golf Club on Sunday 23 February at 12 noon. Please let Jan Hall know if you will be attending.