

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

ROSTERS FOR 21 SEPTEMBER

Portarlington

Managers: Jan & John Hall

Morning Tea: Heather & Keith Pigdon

Pastoral Care: Rev. Ian Porter

Prayers: Rev. Ian Porter

Readings: Joy Porter

PowerPoint: Joy Porter

Lawns: Barry Ruler, Keith Knights, Len Stratton

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Denise's team

Counting: Margo Jones

10.45 am

Duty Elder: John MacGillivray

Prayers: John MacGillivray

Readings: Gerald Edgar

Door: Vince King

Morning Tea: Lavina Howard & Merrilyn Lloyd

Flowers: Wilma Mansell

St Leonards

Welcome: Shirley Hadden

Reading: Marj Wilson

Prayer: Margo Jones

Brass & Flowers: Miram Tobin
& Marg Wilson



Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Were it not for mercy
bursting, blinding, bewildering
I would pace each day within
the cage of my own meagre
and mighty mistake strapped
in high security seclusion a
relentless exclusion from the
unbounded joy of this
unfettered life were it not for
mercy were it not for mercy I
wouldn't recognise my
pleading in your eyes and I
would enshroud us both in the
vile and violent tomb of
revenge, retaliation and
reprisal until we both paid far
too high a cost and life
became a living lost were it
not for mercy but since by
grace she touches my torn
and troubled face and turns
me to the edge of all things
new I'll do my best to offer
nothing but the same for you

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St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Pentecost 14

Sunday, 14 September, 2014

The passages from Exodus and Matthew share the theme of deliverance. Neither the Israelites nor the slave in Jesus' parable do anything to earn their deliverance—it is offered in grace and mercy. The Israelites respond with a song of praise to God. The slave, however, does not show grace or mercy and is punished. Romans offers a theme of being set apart. Just as we have received grace, mercy, and forgiveness, we, who are in Christ, are set apart to do likewise.

Ministry Matters

LECTIONARY

14 September Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 or
Pentecost 14 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35

21 September Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6 37-45
Pentecost 15 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-16

LINKED MINISTER:

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CHURCH OFFICE:

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UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:

Village Walk Drysdale
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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 14 September – Pentecost 15

Portarlington

9:00 am Rev. Marion Latham HC

Loose change & foodbank

St Leonards

9.00 am Rev Margaret Manning

Combined H.C.

Drysdale

9:00 am Graeme's Team

10.45 am Rev Margaret Manning

5.00 pm Messy Church @ Drysdale

Monday, 15 September

9:30 am Drysdale KYB at Pat's

7.00pm Portarlington Discussion on
Spiritual Direction in the UCA

Tuesday 16 September

10.30am Worship @ Drysdale Grove

Wednesday, 17 September

9:00-12:45 Drysdale mainly music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee & Chat

Thursday, 18 September

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice

9.30 am Drysdale Choir practice

11.00 am Worship @ Ann Nichol House

Friday, 19 September

9.15-10:00 am Drysdale Friday School

Saturday 20 September

8.00 am Prayer Breakfast. @ Cafe Zoo,
Drysdale.

Sunday, 21 September – Pentecost 15

Portarlington

9:00 am Rev. Marion Latham

Drysdale

9:00 am Jenni's Team

10.45 am Rev. Marion Latham

St Leonards

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham HC

Loose change & Food bank

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Messy Church

Come along and encourage others to
come to Messy Church at 5:00 pm on
Sunday 14th September.

The theme for this service is 'Building
Blocks'. Creative activities, celebration
service and a shared meal, finishing by
6:30 pm. Please bring finger food if you
are able.

Loose change

Samaritan House benefits this month
with \$141.75 given in loose change. We
can be pleased that what we regard as
"loose change" can really help others in
need. Thank you.

Synod Opening

This year's Synod starts with worship at
7:30 pm on Friday 19th September at
Latrobe University. Wayne Myers will be
attending and has seats available in the
car if others would like to attend.
Contact Wayne on 5251 2210

Forward Notice

Garage Sale

8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Saturday

22nd November, 2014

Please start preparing now, growing and
clearing out your garage or garden shed.

Advance notice

Bible Studies

Two bible studies will be held:-

Date: Tuesday 7th October 2014

Tuesday 14th October 2014

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Unit 6. Bellview. 66 Wyndham St.

Drysdale/home of Pat & Ken Handley

NB. Will those attending please park in
Wyndham Street.

Topic: "How we got our Bible"

An historical look at the development of
scripture.

Everyone welcome. Please come along.

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Thanks

I have been humbled by the number of
friends who have expressed pleasure at
my return from hospital (I assume it is
pleasure, not surprise!!).

I would like to thank those who called,
sent cards and the very many who
prayed for me. Geoff Giddings

This week we will be asked to listen to
the tough, but life-giving Gospel
message of forgiveness. In a world of
conflict, terrorism, and serious
inequalities the idea of forgiveness can
sound naive. But without forgiveness, we
doom ourselves to repeating cycles of
violence, division and scapegoating of
one another. The parable of the
unforgiving servant is the centre around
which all of the other readings rotate.
The related Old Testament reading
moves into territory that the continuous
readings were covering a few weeks ago
– the story of Joseph and his brothers. In
this case, though, the focus is on
Joseph's forgiveness of them. Psalm
103 picks up this theme with a
celebration of God's forgiveness and
grace, while in Romans we approach the
subject from a different angle – that of
not judging those who express their faith
and live out the daily ramifications of
faith differently from us. The connections
in these readings are all very clear. The
continuous Old Testament reading
(Exodus 14), and the related Psalms
(Exodus 15 & Psalm 114) seem to
have the exact opposite message here,
though. However, rather than adopt a
Mosaic attitude of violence and
judgement against enemies, and a
celebration of their demise, Jesus invites
us to a different response to those who
hurt us – the response of forgiveness
and relinquishing of judgement, and of
ending the cycle of violence and
retribution and choosing to actively seek
peace through the tough, but healing act
of forgiveness

.Sacredise