

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Easter 3

Sunday, 19 April 2015

Central to our understanding of the Christian faith is, as John Wesley is supposed to have said at the very end of his life, "The best of all is, God is with us." This is the experience of the disciples following the Resurrection. In a way that the gospel writers find hard to put into words, Jesus remains present with his community. Just as Christ appeared to his disciples in an ordinary room during an ordinary meal, so we, each week, are confident that Christ will be with us in the ordinariness of our worship together. The texts this week invite us to explore what it actually means that Christ is present with us. We use this language all the time in the life of the church but we don't often talk about what that experience of presence actually is for each of us. Each of the texts offers a different aspect of that experience.

Seasons of the Spirit

LECTIONARY

19 April Easter 3	Acts 3: 12-19 1 John 3: 1-7	Psalms 4 Luke 24: 36b-48
26 April Easter 4	Acts 4: 5-12 1 John 3: 16-24	Psalms 23 John 10: 11-18

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Sacred Music at the Basilica'

The Choir of Newman College presents *The Great War in Song*, on Sunday, 31 May at 3 pm. More details at www.musicatthebasilica.org.au

Presbytery of Port Phillip West – Prayer Cycle

We remember today:

- Brunswick Rev Ian Ferguson
- Brunswick Indonesian Congregation
- Pray for the congregation and Leadership

Lord God, you bless us with your presence.
When we feel haunted,
you spirit-surround us.
You take our joy and wonder
and dispel our fear.
May we all sit down at table
and fish-dine with Jesus.

Bob Eldan, Lander, Wyoming

Often GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities

Rosters for 26 April

Portarlington

Managers: John & Jan Hall

Morning Tea: Pam & Geoff Pryor

Pastoral Carer: Barry Ruler

Prayer : Rev Ian & Joy Porter

Reader: Rev Ian & Joy Porter

Power Point Prep: Joy Porter

Drysdale.

Worship@9

Kitchen: Denise's Team

Counting: Margo Jones

10.45 am

Duty Elder : Jen Davis

Reading & Prayer: Port Lay Team

Welcome: Brenda Jacobs

Morning Tea: Mary Grieve &
Margaret MacGillivray

Flowers: Brenda Jacobs

St Leonards

Welcome: Miriam Tobin

Reading: Port Lay Team

Prayers: Port Lay Team

Brass: Judy Godfrey

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 19 April, Easter 3 Portarlington

9:00 am Rev Marion Latham

Drysdale

9. 00 am Graeme's Team

10. 45 am Rev Marion Latham

2.30 pm. 'High Tea' Afternoon tea around Drysdale & Clifton Springs.

St Leonards

5:00 pm Rev Marion Latham, H/C
Loose change & Foodbank

Monday 20 April

9.30 am KYB @ Lynda's

Wednesday, 22 April

9.30 am mainly music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

1.30 pm Drysdale UCAF

Thursday, 23 April

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice

9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice

Friday, 24 April

10.15 am Portarlington Letter writing

1:30 pm Drysdale. Communal Prayer.

Sunday 26 April

Portarlington

9:00 am Port Lay Team

Rev Ian & Joy Porter

Drysdale

9. 00 am Rev Marion Latham

Jenni's team assisting

10. 45 am Port Lay Team

Rev Ian & Joy Porter

St Leonards

5:00 pm Port Lay Team

Ian & Joy Porter

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Drysdale UCAF

Wednesday 22 April at 1.30 pm.

Members (and friends) are asked to bring a "treasure" and tell us about it.

Drysdale Uniting Church Working Bees

Change of dates for 2015.

Please alter your calendar for these new dates 2nd May, 8th August and 7th November. We will start at 8.00am and finish at 12.00 pm Lots of jobs around the church to be done.

ST LEONARDS

St Leonards UCAF

This month our meeting starts at 12-30p.m. on Monday 27th April. It is our "Bush Lunch". For more details phone Margo or Denise

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

The Social Justice Letter Writing

Group will meet next Friday, 24th April at 10:15, in St. Andrew's hall. Please bring your own paper and pen or laptop. All welcome. Enquiries to Merilyn Bertram, 0439966370.

Listening to the Language of the Bible

Excerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

Discovering the Bible's Rich Imagery. *Tzitzit*

Letting our tassels show..
To modern Christians, many laws of the Torah may seem arbitrary. One that may strike us as odd is the commandment to wear tassels (*tzitzit*). According to the Gospels, Jesus wore them (Luke 8:44); and so do many orthodox Jewish men today, with the requirement that they must be visible, not hidden. In ancient times, tassels were a sign of nobility. Kings and princes wore ornate hems decorated with tassels. By wearing them, the Israelites were wearing elements of a 'royal robe', and were marked as God's chosen people. What if Christians were required to wear *tzitzit*? Our faith is often very private, and our lives are like those of everyone around us. While Gentiles were not given this command, the lesson of the *tzitzit* is that if we are also a kingdom of priests, as it says in 1 Peter 2: 9, we have also been set apart to reflect God's holiness, while serving others and bringing them closer to God. We need to be obvious about living our faith so that others will see our 'tassels'.

show and tell

if we showed you our hands, would you find them nicked from building a house for the homeless; or a callous on our thumb from using the TV remote too much?

if we showed you our feet, would you find them toughened by walking the corridors of a hospice with the terminally ill; or wrinkled by too many hours in the hot tub?

if we showed you our hearts, would you find them broken over the struggles of the lost, the little, the last, the least; or would they be clogged with the plaque of our consumerised lives?

if we truly want to be your witnesses, God of the empty grave, would you show us how?

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