

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Easter 4

Sunday, 26 April 2015

The good shepherd and the shepherding love of Christ focus today's readings. While Acts focuses on the unique saving ability of Jesus Christ, John implies that other sheep are part of God's fold. The familiar words of Psalm 23 become fresh when interwoven with the words from John 10 and 1 John 3. Though not in today's readings, conjoining Psalm 23 with Isaiah 40:31 provides a vision of strength and comfort.

Abingdon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

26 April Easter 4	Acts 4: 5-12 1 John 3: 16-24	Psalm 23 John 10: 11-18
3 May Easter 5	Acts 8: 26-40 1 John 4:7-21	Psalm 22: 25-31 John 15: 1-8

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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 West (St David's)
- Rev Andrew Vigus
- Wesley Aged Care and housing services (Coburg)
- CEO and staff

The fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday, and each year the scripture readings include the twenty-third Psalm and a reading from John 10, describing Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The image of Jesus assures us that we are known and cared for. In Acts, Peter affirms Jesus' power to heal and names Jesus as the cornerstone of faith. First John points to the human response to the shepherd's love, reminding us to love one another in truth and action.

Ministry Matters



Rosters for 3 May

Portarlington

Managers: John & Jan Hall
Morning Tea: David & Lorraine Hughes
Pastoral Carer: Rev Ian Porter
Prayer : Rev Ian Porter
Reader: Joy Porter
Power Point Prep: Joy Porter

Drysdale.

Worship@9
Kitchen: Graeme's Team
Counting: Glenda Vuillermin

10.45 am

Communion Elder: Irene Stevenson
Duty Elder: Pat Handley
Reading: Merrilyn Lloyd
Prayer: Pat Handley
Welcome: Brenda Jacobs
Morning Tea: Jen Davis & Vince King
Flowers: Brenda Jacobs

St Leonards

Welcome: Marj Wilson
Reading: Kaye Baulch
Prayers: Marj Wilson
Brass: Sheryl Ratcliff, Marj Wilson

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All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 26 April, Easter 4

Portarlington

9:00 am Portarlington Lay Team
Ian & Joy Porter

Drysdale

9. 00 am Rev Marion Latham
(Jenni's team assisting)
10. 45 am Portarlington Lay Team

St Leonards

5:00 pm Portarlington Lay Team

Wednesday, 29 April

9.30am mainly music
10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

Thursday, 30 April

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice

Friday, 1 May

9.15am Friday School Drysdale
1:30 pm Portarlington. Communal
Prayer

Sunday 3 May

Portarlington

9.00am Port: Rev Margaret Manning

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Rev Marion Latham
10.45 am Drysdale Rev Marion Latham
**Holy Communion, Loose change
& food bank at both services**

St Leonards

5.00pm Rev Marion Latham

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Drysdale Uniting Church Working Bees

The next working bee is Saturday 2 May,
8.00 am to noon.

Lots of jobs around the church to be done,
and many hands make light work. Thank
you.

Annual Dinner and Concert

Our Annual Winter Fundraising Dinner will
be held on Saturday, 23 May, 6.00 pm for
6.15 pm in the Drysdale Church Hall. Cost
remains at \$15 an adult, \$7 child U12, a
bargain price for a home cooked three
course dinner! (gluten free available)

Dinner will be followed by community
singing, led by our Worship @ 9 Band.

All members of the Linked Congregations
and friends are invited to come along for a
great night out. Tickets available now from
Val Lestrangle, phone 52513125.

ST LEONARDS

St Leonards UCAF

Due to unforeseen circumstances the "Bush
Lunch" has been postponed.

This month will be a normal meeting at
2.00pm. Members are asked to bring a
story or an item to talk about.

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Listening to the Language of the Bible

Exerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

Discovering the Bible's Rich Imagery.

Hametz The Imagery of Leaven

The most powerful image of leaven is in
the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated
with his disciples at Passover.

When Jesus held up the bread and said,
"This is my body", he would have been
holding up unleavened bread because the
Jews were required to eat it at the
Passover meal. Understanding ancient
bread-making gives us insight of the
importance of this. If flour gets moist, after
a few days it will acquire a sour taste and
will bubble as yeasts from the air grow in it
– the normal process of decay. If this
fermented dough was baked, the bubbles
and acid added flavour to the bread.

Fermenting could be hastened if day-old
dough were added. The old lump would
become strong and sour overnight, and if
left longer, it would rot. But each day, a
piece of fermented dough (leavening) from
the day before would be added to each
new batch of dough to cause it to rise.
Dough with leavening became an image of
a life contaminated by sin.

When Jesus held up unleavened bread
and said, "This is my body", he wasn't just
speaking about his body as bread in
general, but as that specific kind of bread,
unadulterated by decay – an acceptable
sacrifice, without blemish.

Extra Commentary on the Lectionary

In the Ancient Near East, no one was
more present with sheep than a shepherd.
That closeness and attention to the needs
and natural tendencies of the flock makes
the shepherd a wonderful metaphor to
explore what it means for God to care for
God's world, and what it means for us to
live in that care. The coming of Jesus as
a person amongst us – one of us – brings
the grand themes of love and truth into the
size and shape of a human being.

Seasons of the Spirit



WESLEY HYMNFFEST & LIGHT TEA

Sunday May 24 at 2.30pm
Western Heights Uniting Church, Douglas
Street, Herne Hill. Admission by ticket
only. \$115 per person.

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