

**Just Act: How our society can better reflect God's household**

With an early election almost certain, taxation will form a central part of pre-election discussions. The latest *Just Act* has an interesting article discussing a Christian way of looking at the economy and taxation. We are urged to view our society as God's household - rather a good way to assess policies and promises, and also past records of those aspiring to govern.

Our Christian faith leads us to want a decent life for all people; including those who are in crisis, disabled or who suffer from mental health issues. We want affordable health care for everyone and all children to have a decent education. All these things require adequate funding by Governments.

*Just Act* summarises a statement by the Assembly, 'An Economy of Life', in which our economy is a vehicle for people to flourish, where they are safe, secure, cared for and valued. The Household shares all it has with concern for those most in need. Unfortunately, securing extra funding for one area of need often means less money for another. Indeed, the current Federal Government has favoured cutting funds to those most in need in order to give wealthiest Australians more money. Our Assembly thinks there is another way, a system marked by cooperation, justice and equity which is characterised by love and marked by generosity. Taxation is our means of fairly raising revenue which allows government to function, and to redistribute wealth and correct injustices that are created in the marketplace. *An Economy of Life* reminds us that taxation should be 'regarded not as a burden, but as how people contribute, according to their means, to the well-being of the whole community'

*Just Act* summarises some changes to taxation that will make it fairer and raise adequate monies for a flourishing society. For example, closing loopholes used by multinational corporations to dodge tax, would add billions more each year to government revenue. Fairer taxation is the means by which we can become closer to the ideal of God's household.

**Rosters 1 May**

**Portarlington**

**Managers:** Graham and Brenda Vohmann

**Morning Tea:** Alex and Catherine Eagleson

**Pastoral Care & Prayers:** Dorothy Knights

**Reader:** Brenda Vohmann

**Power Point Preparation:** Joy Porter

**Drysdale**

**Duty Elder & Prayers:** John MacGillivray

**Readings & Welcome:** Margaret MacGillivray

**Morning Tea:** Margaret & John MacGillivray

**Flowers:** Margaret Freemantle

**Worship @ 9**

**Kitchen:** Graeme's team

**Counting:** Jenni Nickelson

**St Leonards**

**Welcome:** Miriam Tobin

**Reading:** Kaye Baulch

**Prayers:** Marj Wilson

**Flowers and Brass:** Sheryl Ratcliff, Marj Wilson

**THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

**Easter 5**

**Sunday, 24 April 2016**

God draws no distinction between peoples, but loves all equally. Through a vision, Peter is shown that the Gentiles are to be included in the promises of God.

The psalmist calls creation to praise the creator of heaven and earth. And Revelation promises that God will wipe away every tear, for God has come to dwell among us.

Finally, in John's Gospel, Jesus commands disciples everywhere to love one another—for Christians will be known by their love.

*Abingdon Worship*

**LECTIONARY**

24 April Easter 5	Acts 11:1-18 Rev 21:1-6	Psalms 148 Jn 13:31-35
1 May Easter 6	Acts 16: 9-15 Rev 21: 10, 22 - 22: 5	Psalms 67 John 14: 23-29 or John 5: 1-9

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

### Sunday, 24 April

#### Portarlington

9.00 am Portarlington Lay Team,  
David & Lorraine Hughes

#### Drysdale

9.00 am Wayne's Team  
10.45 am Wayne Myers

#### St Leonards

5.00pm Anglican led

### Monday, 25 April (Anzac Day)

2.00 pm St Leonards UCAF

### Wednesday, 27 April

9.30 am mainly music  
1.00 pm Drysdale Communal Prayer  
1.30 pm Portarlington G&L & COER  
1.30 pm Drysdale UCAF

### Thursday, 28 April

9.00 am Portarlington Choir Practice  
9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice

### Friday, 29 April

9.15 am Drysdale Friday School  
9:30 am Portarlington Justice and  
Mission meeting

### Sunday, 1 May

#### Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Ian Porter

#### Drysdale

9.00 am Rev David Walker  
10.45 am Rev David Walker  
*Loose change, food bank and  
HC both services*  
6.00 pm Drysdale Special Birthday  
Tea, CS Golf Club

#### St Leonards

5.00pm Rev Ian Porter, HC, Loose  
change & food bank

## OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

### DRYSDALE

#### Membership Roll

The membership directory is being updated for reprinting. The current listing is displayed in the foyer for checking and updating of any details. Your attention to this will be appreciated.

#### Annual Church Dinner

All members of linked congregations are invited, as well as your friends and neighbours.

Please come along and support this major fund raiser and have a great night out. A three course meal, all dietary requirements provided for, will be followed by community singing lead by David & Sue Gibbons and Vicki Wills (back by popular demand!)

Saturday, 21 May,  
6.00pm for 6.15pm serving  
Adult \$20, Children under 12 \$10,  
under 6 \$7.

Tickets are available from Val Lestrangle.

#### Drysdale - Working Bee

Please be advised that the Working Bee date has changed to Saturday 30 April.

A list of jobs to do (or jobs you think need doing) will be on the board opposite the office.  
Time between 8.00 and 12.00 please bring appropriate tools for the jobs.

Property committee.

## PORTARLINGTON

#### Justice and Mission group letter writing

Justice letter writing dates are 2nd Friday of the month in the St Andrew's church hall from 10.15 to 11.30 am: so *Fridays May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, Aug 12th, Sept 8th, Oct 13th, Nov 10th, Dec 9th.*

People from all congregations are welcome. Enjoy a cuppa, chat and bring your letter writing equipment:- Laptop, envelopes/paper. The Synod's *Just Act* publication is very good resource to assist with letter writing ideas, as is the discussion we share each month.

And a post script: well written and informed letters are taken quite seriously by our political leaders and various parliamentary committees.

#### Fellowship Breakfast, 14 May 2016

Our May meeting will be held on Saturday 14 May, 2016, commencing at 7.30 am. Guest Speaker will be Ms Elena Hobson. Elena owns Portside Physiotherapy in Portarlington. Elena has been part of a Physio support group for a long distance runner who has been running to highlight awareness of water shortages around the world. Elena has been part of the crew in Uluru, South Africa and Chile and she will tell us of her experiences.

All members of the Linked Congregations and their friends are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 12 May, 2016.

## ST LEONARDS

### UCAF

The next meeting of the St. Leonards UCAF is at 2.00 pm on Monday 25 April.

As this is ANZAC day the theme is Australia. Bring a story of your travels in Australia and something for afternoon tea that reminds us of Australia.

## FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

#### Joint Nominating Committee

The Joint Nominating Committee has prayerfully selected a prospective minister who will be recommended to the congregations today. Congregation meetings will be held for Portarlington-St. Leonards at the conclusion of the 9.00 am service at Portarlington and for Drysdale between the two services at 10.30 am.

Details of the prospective minister will be presented at these meetings and once the recommendation is accepted by both congregations the formal Call will be issued by the Chair of the Linked Congregations. This is a wonderful result for which we can praise God.

#### Lent Event Donations

UnitingWorld offers a huge *Thank You* to all who participated in Lent Event this year. Donations are still coming in. It would be good to get funds to the people who need them as soon as possible. If anyone is still planning to send a donation it would be good if you could get this on its way as soon as possible.