

I heard speakers who had seen or experienced this first hand. BUT, there is a groundswell of concern among Australians. Increasingly people want compassion and decency to prevail and our rich nation to honour its commitment to the UN treaty for Refugees. The thousands of people who shared in this Walk and the wide range of organisations represented illustrate this. The other thing that impressed me was the response of the watching crowds on the footpaths. There were a lot of them. They showed considerable interest, positive support sometimes, but no animosity. This is a positive change too. Let's keep up the pressure to see God's will implemented: *to love justice, welcome strangers and do to others what we would want done to ourselves.*

Enticed by love  
they came to see  
God in human frailty,  
a newborn babe  
at purest birth  
delivered, squirming  
to the earth.  
This promised child  
clutched in his hand  
salvation  
sent at God's command.  
But with salvation  
death was brought,  
and pain and suffering  
too, were caught  
entangled in his tiny palm;  
flailed silently  
into the calm  
of night that held,  
so innocently,  
the Man  
who'd set his people free

*Rebekah Tempest*

### Rosters 3 April

#### Portarlington

**Managers:** Heather & Harold Gould

**Morning Tea:** Geoff & Pammi Pryor

**Pastoral Care & Prayers:** Lorraine Hughes

**Reader:** David Hughes

**Power Point Preparation:** Joan Kelly

#### Drysdale

**Communion Elder:** Pat Handley

**Duty Elder & Prayers:** Jen Davis

**Readings:** Irene Stevenson

**Welcome:** Brenda Jacobs

**Morning Tea:** Merrilyn Lloyd

**Flowers:** Jennifer Davis

#### Worship @ 9

**Kitchen:** Graeme's team

**Counting:** Glenda Vuillerman

#### St Leonards

**Welcome:** Miriam Tobin

**Reading :**Margo Jones

**Prayer:** Marj Wilson

**Brass & Flowers:** Geoff & Sandra Giddings



## THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

### Easter Day Sunday, 27 March 2016

How can we make Easter a day of surprises, a day of meaning, for people who think they have heard it all before? Easter calls us to be amazed at the power of our loving God and at the incredible gift that God has given us—new life, new hope. The women at the tomb did not expect what they saw and heard. But these women remembered and told others—the first preachers commissioned to bring the good news that marks us as Christians. We need to help people remember and be empowered to be witnesses in the world—even if what we say is dismissed as an idle tale. Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! This declaration has become formulaic and is often spoken without great thought or feeling. But it points to a radical, life-changing reality that has the power to transform us all from our complacent, sleep-walking, church going death, into newness of life. Easter allows us to make a difference in this God-blessed world.

*Abingdon Worship*

### LECTIONARY

27 March Easter Day	Acts 10: 34-43 1 Cor 15: 19-26	Ps 118: 1-2 Jn 20: 1-18
3 April Easter 2	Acts 5: 27-32 Rev 1: 4-8	Ps 118: 14-29 Jn 20: 19-31

#### CHURCH OFFICE:

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Drysdale Church Centre

5253 1336

[drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au)

<http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

#### UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:

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5251 3640

## THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

**Sunday, 27 March**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Portarlinton**

9.00 am Rev Marg Manning

*Holy Communion*

**Drysdale**

9.00 am Graeme's Team

10.45 am Rev Marg Manning

*Holy Communion*

**St Leonards**

7.00 pm Rev Marg Manning

*Holy Communion*

**Monday, 28 March**

1.30 pm KYB at Lynda Smith's

2.00 pm St Leonards UCAF

**Wednesday, 30 March**

1.00 pm Drysdale Communal Prayer

**Thursday, 31 March**

9.00 am Portarlinton Choir Practice

9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

**Sunday, 3 April**

**Portarlinton**

9.00 am Rev Bob Thomas

**Drysdale**

9.00 am Rev Bob Stevenson

*Holy Communion, Loose Change & Food Bank*

10.45 am Rev Bob Stevenson

*Holy Communion, Loose Change & Food Bank*

**St Leonards**

5.00pm Rev Bob Thomas

*Holy Communion, Loose Change & Food Bank*

## OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

### DRYSDALE

#### RSVP's

A reminder that your RSVP's for our Guess Who is Coming to High Afternoon Tea on 17 April are due today. Please place your response in the box at the church or call Val Lestrang on 52513125.

### PORTARLINGTON

**Loose change.** St Leonards and Portarlinton congregations contributed \$100.40 in March in support of Samaritan House and mobile clinics in Timor Leste.

#### Church Lunch

You are invited to the first of our "After Church Lunches" for 2016. Once again we will meet at the Portarlinton Golf Club at noon. The date to remember is Sunday 3 April. Please let Lorraine Hughes know, by March 30, if you are able to join us on that date. Phone 5259 2364 or email [hughestwo@bigpond.com](mailto:hughestwo@bigpond.com).

### FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

#### Emergency appeal- Fiji

Due to the recent cyclone, Share has launched an emergency appeal. Donations will support Uniting World's partner, the Methodist Church in Fiji. If you wish to give a donation go online at [www.shareappeal.org.au](http://www.shareappeal.org.au) or call 1800 668 426

#### Asylum Seeker Event –,

**Sunday 10 April 2.30pm** at St

Andrew's Uniting Church Hall

Our Asylum Seeker focus will take the form of a serene, beautiful afternoon of music from **Suzette Herft** and **Patrick Evans** who are a unique blend of modern Australian Folk. They sang last year at our Asylum Seeker Dinner and were so well received.

A delicious High Tea will be served. Funds raised will assist Lentara Uniting Church Asylum Seeker Project. Members of Linked Congregations are encouraged to book tickets **now** as this will be a very popular afternoon.

Indicate your interest by 13 March. Ticket bookings and enquires to Marg Manning 0409 334 480 or email: [margiemanning@iinet.net.au](mailto:margiemanning@iinet.net.au) Marg McGillivray at Drysdale also has tickets.

#### Op Shop

If you are able to spare 3 hours per week, or know someone who can, UnitingCare Geelong Op Shops in Highton, East Geelong and Revamp in Mercer Street have a number of urgent vacancies.

We rely on the income from our Op Shops to provide our welfare programs and services. If you would like to be part of a team making a real difference in the Geelong community, please call Elizabeth on 4210 1113 or email [Elizabeth.hopkin@icg.untingcare.org.au](mailto:Elizabeth.hopkin@icg.untingcare.org.au).

Thank you

## FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST APRIL

The April breakfast meeting at Portarlinton will be held on Saturday April 9, commencing at 7-30 am. Guest Speaker will be the Rev. Bob Thomas. The title of Bob's talk will be "Accepting Our Role as God's Gardeners." Bob has been and still is a great environmentalist. In his last ministerial placement in the Southern Highlands of NSW, Bob was awarded the title of "Environmental Hero of the Year" by the National Council of Churches for his work in this area. I have much, much more information I could provide but that may spoil Bob's talk to us. All members of the Linked congregations and their friends, are warmly invited to attend at Portarlinton on Saturday 9 April to hear what I know will be an interesting and challenging talk.

Acceptances please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 7 April Please.

#### Just Act

'Just Act' is the monthly News and Resources publication from the Justice and International Mission Unit of Synod. I am being sent 2 copies so I can put one on the Church notice board for members to look at while they sup their coffee (or tea). I will summarise one item each week. Today there is some good news. I joined the Uniting Church group in Melbourne last Sunday for the **Walk for Justice for Refugees**. Conditions for refugees and asylum seekers are still abominable, shaming Australia and destroying the health and sanity of those who can find no safe haven.