



This month's services

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|--------|------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 May | — 9.00 am | Rev David Walker & Wayne's Team | HC |
| | | 10.45 am | Rev David Walker HC |
| 8 May | — 9.00 am | Café Church | |
| | | 10.45 am | Rev Bob Thomas |
| 15 May | — 9.00 am | Graeme's Team | |
| | | 10.45 am | Rev Bob Thomas |
| 22 May | — 9.00 am | Rev Margaret Manning & Baptism | |
| | | 10.45 am | Pat & Ken Handley |
| 29 May | — 10.15 am | Combined Linked Congregations - Rev David Walker @ Drysdale with lunch following | |

PROFILE— REV BOB THOMAS

Bob was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA and grew up in a small town near Niagara Falls and the Canadian border. At university in New York he trained as a physicist. His first job was with General Electric Aerospace as a Reliability Engineer for military precision equipment. He came to Australia in 1971 as an adventure and to grow up away from home, but misses the white Christmas. In Melbourne he first worked as a Maths/Physics teacher at Trinity Grammar School



before gaining a job in the reliability engineering field. This then led to a Quality Manager role in Wodonga. Bob had always been a member of a church and in Wodonga attended a Methodist/Presbyterian church that had already united before union occurred. As a result of hearing modern interpretations of the bible in bible study groups he decided to move into ministry and became one of the first candidates to study in the Theological Hall as a member of the Uniting Church. Bob was ordained in 1980 and his first placement was in Maryborough. Then followed Dromana/Rosebud and Belmont before deciding to move back to New York to be with his ill mother. He ministered there in the Methodist church on an Indian reservation. After his mother passed away he decided to come back to Australia to be near his children and gained a placement at Bowral, NSW where his environmental passion developed. It was through the environment that he found he was ministering to the community and being ministered to by the congregation. In 2010 he was awarded the Environmental Hero Award by the National Council of Churches. His work included developing the Climate Action Network, which is still going, and the Transition Town Movement in Australia, to learn to live more sustainably. Living in the nearby town of Bundunoon he headed a project to make the town bottled water free achieving world recognition for this first. At age 65 he retired to Geelong. He has a son in Geelong and a daughter in Melbourne and seven grandchildren, and is now married to Anita. He now enjoys casual preaching, occasionally playing bridge or with model railways, listening to a wide variety of music, playing guitar and banjo. He has also joined the choir which is really appreciated. Bob's response to the question "why do you go to church" was it has always been part of who I am!



MAY

Happy birthday!

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|---------------------|----------|
| John MacGillivray | 2nd May |
| Margaret Freemantle | 3rd May |
| Wendy Allott | 4th May |
| Nesta Duncan | 5th May |
| Cameron Miller | 14th May |
| Margaret Jeffrey | 15th May |
| Mary Grieve | 17th May |
| Norm Cheale | 17th May |
| Tom Allott | 22nd May |
| Sue Polley | 25th May |
| Val Lestrangle | 31st May |

Happy birthday!

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Special birthday wishes to Norm Cheale who celebrates his 70th birthday this month.

RETREAT

Saturday 28 May is our annual Retreat—in fact our ninth. It will again be held at the Portarlington Guide Hall at the Recreation Reserve, Portarlington commencing at 9.30 am and concluding at 5.00 pm. The Retreat is a time to think about God, our church and our personal interaction with both. It is held away from our church property so that we do not become distracted by familiarity. It is also a time to share with other members of the congregation—in worship, in discussions, activity and great food. There is also some time for personal contemplation. The only cost is an item of food for lunch or morning/afternoon teas. If you are able to attend please write your name on the booking sheet in the foyer. More details in next week’s news sheet.



MESSY CHURCH

The next is on Sunday 9 June 5.00—6.30 pm.

The theme will be “Multi Cultural”.



My Spiritual Retreat

by Julie Carro

There is a quiet place I go...my spiritual retreat,
Deep within my soul, where Jesus and I meet.
Like a mountain hideaway, nestled safe amongst the trees,
I journey to His kingdom, when I'm down upon my knees.

Thanksgiving takes me there; perfect praise is the door,
Faith holds the key, to what Jesus has in store.
Then in confidence I share, thoughts hidden in my heart,
As He so sweetly listens, with gentle guidance to impart.

I tell Him of my hurts...and I tell Him of my fears,
Sometimes He holds my hand, and lightly wipes the tears.
We laugh, we cry, we sing, as we while away the hours,
Rejoicing in Creation, and the beauty of the flowers.

We talk about His plans, and we talk about His Word,
His voice in my spirit, the purest sound I've ever heard.
It fills my heart with peace, true happiness, and joy,
Always humbled by His Presence, and yet basking in His glory!

Oh the times together, give my heart the sweetest pleasure!
For nothing can compare, to this richly hidden treasure,
Of escaping to this quiet place...my spiritual retreat,
Deep within my soul, where Jesus and I meet.



Don't give up; Moses was once a basket case.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11 May – 1.00 pm Communal Prayer
- 21 May—8.00 am Prayer Breakfast
- 21 May—Mid Winter Dinner
- 25 May – 1.00 pm Communal Prayer
- 28 May—Retreat

10.45	KITCHEN	DOOR	READING	ELDER/PRAYERS
MAY 1	Marg & John	Marg Macg	Marg	John
8	Pat & Ken	Wilma	Marguerite	Irene
15	Val & Audrey	Wilma	Margaret	Jen
22	Margaret & Tony	Brenda	Drys Lay Team	Bob
29	W@9	Brenda	Wayne	Ken/Graeme

W@9	KITCHEN	COUNTING	FLOWERS
MAY 1	Graeme's Team	Jennie	Margaret Freemantle
8	Wayne's Team	Jonnie	Jonnie Mander
15	Jenni's Team	Val	Colleen Diamond
22	Denise's Team	Colleen	Norma Taylor
29	W@9	Sue Polley	Wilma Mansell

Web site: <http://drysedale.unitingchurch.org.au>

Our Vision—Reaching out with God's love and care