

## FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

### Fair Trade Chocolate Campaign

Join the FAIR TRADE Chocolate Campaign! Buy Fair Trade chocolate for Easter to help stop the trafficking and forced labour of children and adults for chocolate production. The Fair Trade campaign builds on the global campaigns in recent years that have seen several well-known chocolate manufacturers, including Cadbury and Nestle, use ethically sourced chocolate. By buying cocoa beans that are certified FAIR TRADE, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ Certified, these chocolate producers ensure there is no forced labour or trafficked labour on cocoa plantations. On the notice board near the church office there is a list of chocolate manufacturers who have agreed to use ethically sourced chocolate. Sadly this does not necessarily apply to Easter eggs and Easter products. Check for the labels for the appropriate logos.

Unfortunately, much of the world's chocolate is produced using cocoa beans that have been harvested by trafficked children or forced labour. The West African countries of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana are two of the largest producers and exporters of cocoa.

It is estimated 70 percent of the world's cocoa comes from West Africa. The most recent figures estimate that 1.8 million children in West Africa are involved in the industry and some are forced or trafficked.

## Rosters for 17 March

### PORTARLINGTON

Managers: David and Lorraine Hughes  
Morning Tea: Marg Hutcheon, Sue Handley & Sylvia Blegg  
Pastoral Carer: Rev Ian Porter  
Prayers: Rev. Ian Porter  
Reader: Joy Porter  
Power Point Preparation: Joy Porter

### DRYSDALE

10.45am  
Duty Elder: Bob Stevenson  
Prayers: Bob Stevenson  
Readings: Joy Krahe  
Door: Wilma Mansell  
Morning Tea: Margaret Jeffery & Val Place  
Flowers: Audrey Shepherd

### Worship @ 9

Kitchen: Jenni's Team  
Counting: Sue Polley

### ST LEONARDS

Welcoming: Miriam Tobin  
Reading: Marj Wilson  
Prayer: Margo Jones  
Brass & Flowers: Margo Jones

## THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

### LENT 4

**Sunday, 10 March 2013**

Today's readings speak of the power of honest human speech, heard and answered by a God who delivers us from burden and bondage to freedom and possibility. These readings testify that even before we speak, God, as loving parent, waits for the wandering child; God, as provider, gives manna even while we wander. God waits on us, listens for us, plans for us, and reaches out to us most compellingly in Jesus Christ. Our texts instruct us to speak our deepest failings and fears, for to be silent, to hold everything within, is to waste away. When we speak boldly and honestly, we hear God's glad cry: "Quickly, bring out a robe!"  
Ministry Matters.com

### LECTIONARY

|                    |                             |                            |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| March 10<br>Lent 4 | Jos 5:9-12<br>2 Cor 5:16-21 | Ps 32<br>LK 15:1-3, 11b-32 |
| March 17<br>Lent 5 | Is 43:16-21<br>Phil 3:4b-14 | Ps 126<br>Jn 12:1-8        |

### LINKED MINISTER:

Rev. Marion Latham  
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Email: marlat41@optusnet.com.au  
Mobile: 0414383101

### CHURCH OFFICE:

Drysdale Church Centre  
Phone: 5253 1336  
Email: drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au  
Web: <http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

### UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:

Village Walk Drysdale  
Phone: 5251 3640

## THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

### SUNDAY 10 March

#### Portarlington

9.00am Rev Marion Latham HC  
*Loose change & Food bank*

#### Drysdale

9.00am Worship @ 9 Graeme's  
Team

10.45am Rev Margaret Manning

### St Leonards

9.00am Combined Holy Communion  
UCA

### MONDAY 11 March

7.30pm Drysdale Lenten Studies

1.30pm Portarlington UCAF

### WEDNESDAY 13 March

9.30am - Drysdale mainly music

10.00am Drysdale Coffee & Chat

1.30pm Op Shop Meeting

### THURSDAY 14 March

9.00am Portarlington & Drysdale  
Choir Practice

7.00pm Toolbox Parenting Course

### FRIDAY 15 March

9.15am Drysdale Friday school

### SATURDAY 16 March

8.00am Drysdale Prayer Breakfast  
at Zoo Café

### SUNDAY 17 March

#### Portarlington

9.00am Rev. Marion Latham

#### Drysdale

9.00am Worship @ 9 Denise's  
Team

10.45am Rev. Marion Latham

### St Leonards

7.00pm Rev Marion Latham HC  
*Loose Change & Food Bank.*

## OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

### DRYSDALE

#### Drysdale Lenten Studies

This year during the season of Lent, leading us towards the cross and Easter, we will be preparing through a series of studies from the 'Cover to Cover' guides, 'Prepared for purpose'. Studies will be at the church at 7.30 pm on Feb 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25. Everyone is welcome; 'the more the merrier'. There will be a small voluntary donation to cover the cost of books.

#### Loose Change

This month's offering raised \$169.10 for Mukti Mission in India. Thank you for your generous contributions

### PORTARLINGTON

#### Election to Portarlington Church Council

The results of the church council elections last Sunday were:

**Elders:** Jan Dryden, Heather Gould, Lorraine Hughes.

**Church Councillors:** David Hughes, Dorothy Knights, Heather Pigdon, Each group will hold office until March 2016.

### Portarlington Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 17th March. Please bring non perishable grocery type items, which will be displayed and then sent to a worthy cause, to be decided by church council.

#### Date for the Diary.

Would all members of the linked congregation note that the **Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir** will present a pleasant afternoon of choral music to suit all tastes, in the church hall on **Sunday April 21st., at 2-00pm**. Tickets \$12, including a cuppa and home made biscuits/slices after the performance. Tickets at the door.

#### Annual Congregation Meeting Today

We are hoping you will all stay after the service today for our annual congregation meeting. Shouldn't take long. Morning tea will follow.

.....  
Skeletons

In each of our hearts is a locked place,  
God;  
Like a forgotten room or a dark cupboard,  
We would prefer to forget it even exists,  
But inside it are things that won't stay  
hidden.

Others would never suspect that we  
carry such a place;

We guard our faces so no evidence  
appears,  
And we keep our lips sealed,  
allowing no escape for the stories of the  
skeletons in our cupboard.

But in the quiet moments, the unguarded  
times of solitude,  
The doors we struggle to hold shut fly  
open  
and the skeletons – these living guilts –  
come out and dance  
Mocking us and reminding us of our  
secret shame.

Free us from the power and the prison  
of the skeletons in our cupboards, Jesus;  
Teach us that mistakes and brokenness  
and failure  
are part of creative and bold living  
Remind us that what is hidden holds us  
in bondage  
and cannot be healed;  
And lead us through our shame to  
confident joy in you.

Let us know the touch of your  
forgiveness and healing,  
and teach us to pass this acceptance on  
to others  
friends, family and strangers  
who, like us, pretend to be whole  
While within them, skeletons still dance.

Amen.

John Van De Laar, Sacredise