

Something more to think about.....

What does the word "Joy" mean in a world of suffering, inequity, war and terrorism, and climate change? In what ways can God's reign be seen as an invitation to joy for the weak and vulnerable of our world. Where are the places of greatest grief and hopelessness in your community? What are the sources of this pain, and in what way do we, perhaps inadvertently, contribute? In what ways have you allowed a future hope to "let you off the hook" of bringing joy to those in need? As we wait, in Advent, for the coming of the One who brings joy and Good News, how can we allow this hope to inspire us and empower us to Gospel action? It may mean simply addressing areas of complacency and neglect in your community – cleaning up rubbish dumps and fixing broken windows wherever you may find them.

It may mean refusing to buy into the suspicion and scepticism of the times, and committing to hope and compassion. It may mean speaking out against the politics and religion of fear and slander that so easily become the loudest voices in our world. In small ways we can become those who make this world 'homely' even for the most vulnerable, and we can speak prophetically against any power that would seek to control through fear, grief and corruption.

In the way we live, speak and interact we can be "counter-cultural" demonstrating that joy can be known in this world without oppressing, bombing or ignoring others, and without buying into rampant consumerism and "achieveism".

John van de Laar, Sacredise.

Rosters for 22 December

PORTARLINGTON

Managers: David & Lorraine Hughes
Morning tea: Heather & Harrold Gould
Pastoral Care: Keith Pigdon
Prayers & Readings: Portarlington Lay Team
Power Point: Pam Pryor

DRYSDALE

9:00 am W@9
Kitchen: Graeme's Team
Counting: Denise McLaverty
10.45 am
Duty Elder: Pat Williams
Prayers & Readings: Portarlington Lay Team
Door: Ken Handley
Morning tea: Irene & Bob Stevenson
Flowers: Audrey Shepherd

ST. LEONARDS

Welcoming: Margo Jones
Readings & Prayers: Portarlington Lay Team
Flowers and Brass: Beryl Woodcock



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Advent 3

Sunday 15 December 2013

Joy is seldom recognised for the incredibly restorative, liberating force that it is. Unfortunately, even in faith communities, soberness, seriousness and even cynicism are often portrayed as the marks of true spirituality and maturity. The Lectionary this week would challenge that thinking, and would call us to consider joy as the mark of true faith, of spiritual maturity and of true justice-bringers. If our work for justice and peace, for compassion and grace brings no joy – to us or to those we serve – we do not really bring liberation. But, when we can dance and sing, and draw others into the celebration, we have truly become life-givers, and reflections of the Christ who was not only a man of sorrows, but also a man of celebration and joy.

Sacredise

LECTIONARY

December 15
Advent 3

Isaiah 35: 1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11: 2-11

Psalms 146: 5-10 or
Luke 1: 46-55

December 22
Advent 4

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Romans 1: 1-7

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19
Matthew 1: 18-25

LINKED MINISTER:

Rev. Marion Latham
Phone 5253 2199
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 15 December

Portarlinton

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Graeme's team

10.45 am Rev Marion Latham

St. Leonards

7.00 pm Rev Marion Latham HC

Loose Change and Food Bank

Monday 16 December

9.30 am KYB

Tuesday 17 December

10.30 am Chapel service at Drysdale Grove

Wednesday 18 December

10:00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

Thursday 19 December

9.00 am D'dale & Port. Choir practice

10.00 am Drysdale Choir & others singing carols at Woolworths

11.00 am Worship at Ann Nichol House/Sims Lodge

Sunday 22 December

Portarlinton

9.00 am Portarlinton Lay Team – Ian & Joy Porter

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Rev Marion Latham
Graeme's team assisting

10.45 am Portarlinton Lay Team – Ian & Joy Porter

St. Leonards

7.00 pm Portarlinton Lay Team – Ian & Joy Porter

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Singing Christmas Carols

Everyone is invited to join the Choir in singing Christmas Carols at Woolworths on Thursday, 19 December, from 10.00 to 11.00 am. Come along and raise your voices as we rejoice together.



Pilgrimage

Start the year with a special focus on God by joining in the Pilgrimage on Saturday 4 January. The November event was cancelled because of the weather. This is open to all; you can walk, drive or do a combination.

Empty Christmas tree

Today is the last chance to place a gift under our empty Christmas tree. All gifts will be sent to Uniting Care Geelong for distribution to those in need. The gifts should be left unwrapped and can be for any age.

Church Directory

An insert was included in last week's newsheet for changes to the 2013 Directory. Further copies are available in the foyer. Please use this to update your Directory.

January Challenge

To improve our friendliness as a congregation you are asked to take part in the **January Challenge!**

What is the **January Challenge?** Each Sunday talk to others in the congregation that you don't know very well, or don't normally talk to. Then go home and mark your Directory to see how many congregation members you can talk to in the month. There will be no prizes other than the satisfaction of living out our hospitality to others.

Successful Working Bee

The Drysdale Property Committee appreciate the support at the working bee last Saturday. Thank you to the 12 people who came along and cleaned, repaired and gardened.

Election of Elders

Nominations are called for people to serve as Elders for the congregation. An elder will have a few members of the congregation to look after in a pastoral care role, and be a member of the Church Council. Elders are people who are committed to showing Christ's concern for others.

Vince King, Ian McLaverty and Jenni Nickelson's term concludes, but they are eligible for re-election. Nominations are to be submitted by 18 January using the form available from Wayne Myers. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday 2 February, after a combined service.

ALL OUR CONGREGATIONS

Music for Advent and Christmas

Free lunchtime **Advent Organ Recitals** at The Basilica of St Mary of the Angels.

Mondays 12.30 – 1.15 pm,
16 December Tom Healey
23 December Frank De Rosso.

A Christmas Carol. From the novel by Charles Dickens, Readings and music by candlelight. With Ben and Elaine Mitchell. Wendy Grose, soprano, Regina Thomae, piano. Friday 20 December at 8.00 pm at the Basilica. Tickets \$25/20 – 12 and under no charge.

Newsheets

Next week will be the last news sheet for 2013 and will contain all lectionary readings and rosters until the next news sheet in late January 2014.

Christmas Services.

Tuesday 24 Dec. . Christmas Eve.

11.15 pm @ St. Andrews, Portarlinton. Combined with Anglicans. Rev. Marion Latham

11.30 pm @ Drysdale. Rev. Leigh Pope.

Wednesday 25 Dec. . Christmas Day.

8.00 am. Drysdale. Rev. Marion

9.00 am Portarlinton. Rev. Marion

Sunday 29 Dec Christmas 1.

Combined Linked Congregations Worship at 10.15 am at Drysdale. Carols on the church lawns (weather permitting).

Bring a picnic rug or chair to sit on and lunch to share in the hall.

Sunday 5 January Christmas 2.

Normal service times. (see preaching plan)