



Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 28 April, 2024

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 28 April

Portarlington

9.00am Lay team - Pigdon

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

Wednesday, 1 May

2.00pm Portarlington Midweek Worship

Rev. Karen Eller

Thursday, 2 May

10.00am Drysdale Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

Friday, 3 May

10.30am Morning Tea with the Minister
Drysdale Uniting Church hall

Sunday, 5 May

Portarlington

9.00am Rev. Marg. Manning

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Marg. Manning
Holy Communion, loose change, foodbank

LECTIONARY READINGS

28 April Acts 8: 26-40
Easter 5 Psalm 22: 25-31
1 John 4: 7-21
John 15: 1-8

5 May Acts 10: 44-48
Easter 6 Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15: 9-17

Theme Ideas from Ministry Matters

Abiding in Christ's love is the key to sharing Christ's love with others. An angel visits Philip, and Philip goes where he is sent—transforming the life of the Ethiopian eunuch as Philip shares time and testimony with him. See what love is given when we share the good news of Christ!

John writes of love, deepening the challenge as he reminds us that Christ's love is perfected in us only when we allow that love to cast out all fear and dare to love every brother and sister we meet.

Jesus comforts us with the reminder that, as our vine, he is always connected to us, sustaining and nurturing us as we grow in love, as we reach toward perfect love of God and neighbour, and as we trust that we can indeed rest in the abiding love of God.

Prayer from Ministry Matters



Almighty God, whose love is beyond understanding, whose mercy is beyond comprehension—we lift up our hearts to you in prayer.

Though we were captives of our sinful and rebellious ways, your love has released us.

You have freed us to experience divine love in our own lives. Your atoning love has freed us from the penalty of sin, which was rightfully ours to pay.

How can we express our thanksgiving, except to praise your name and to allow your love to be seen in us.

Grant to us a determined faith and a fervent love, that we might be reflections of your divine grace.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, as we offer our petitions in the name of the One who is love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Uniting in Prayer 2024

Once again our congregations have received invitations to join with other Uniting Churches in a national prayer chain as we did last year. The 35 days of prayer and connection will begin on Pentecost Sunday in May and continue into June. More details later.

Minister:
Reverend Karen Eller
Email: kareneller@gmail.com
Phone: 0407 519 759
Web:

Office, Drysdale Church Centre:
High Street DRYSDALE
drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au
0490 452 325 (Office)
<http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop:
High Street DRYSDALE
Monday to Friday (11.00am – 4.00pm)
Saturday (10.00am – 12.30pm)
0490 452 325

Sacrededge Festival 3-5 May, 2024

Queenscliff Uniting Church will host its annual Sacrededge festival from 3-5 May, bringing people together for a weekend of arts, music and stories.

Sacrededge is our response to a sometimes harsh and fearful world. It is an opportunity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds.

Rather than debate and argue about issues Q&A style, this unique festival listens to people from the edge... their stories, music, poetry.

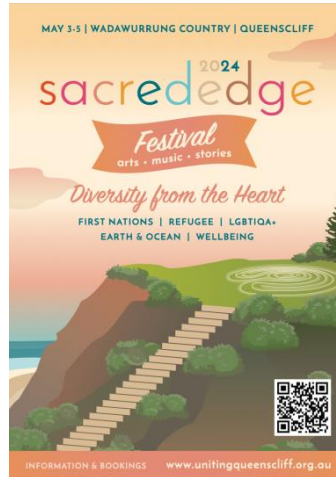
Our presenters, artists & performers come from a range of backgrounds – First Nations, Refugee, LGBTIQ+ folk, Carers for the Earth and Ocean.

They are the voices from the edge who are vulnerable and not normally heard.

With a bunch of people from different spiritual traditions and none, people who love stories, justice, ideas, music and the arts, community is created.

Sacrededge is a lived experience of how we can treasure each other in all our glorious diversity and find our hearts and minds expanded and enriched.

Information & bookings: www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au
Queenscliff Uniting Church.



Otira Books

The study books we read during Lent were made available without cost by Pilgrim Theological College.

The booklist of available books can be found at [Otira Book Club - Uniting Church in Australia. Synod of Victoria and Tasmania \(uca.org.au\)](#)

There are some excellent books which would be great to read together in a group. Reading in a group opens our engagement with the book to the ideas of others and insights into how it touches the lives of others.

If you feel called to organise a book group for the Pentecost season, please let Karen know and she can help you set it up. Also, if you would like to be part of such a group, send me an email or text.

My recommendations include Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom and Phosphorescence by Julia Baird. There are many more!

Karen

Funding a Flourishing Community versus Tax Breaks - JustAct February 2024

Taxation sounds like a dry topic, but, as the source of resources for governments to do their job and promote a just and decent society (or the opposite if they are levied unfairly); it is definitely something for Christians to care about.

Christians want a decent life for all people, including those who are in crisis, disabled or suffer from mental health issues. Before the last Federal election, the Labor Party made several commitments to make our society more fair and compassionate. These commitments need funds – funds to improve education, health care, age care, affordable housing and greenhouse gas reduction. No commitment was made to increase JobSeeker payments for those locked out of employment (people don't 'go and get a job'; they can only have a job if they are given one). Instead, the Government committed to a massive handout to wealthy Australians by upholding the Stage Three tax cuts, even if in a slightly less generous form to the most wealthy. Now a person with an annual income of \$40,000 will get a \$654 tax cut; a person with an income of \$200,000 will still get a tax cut of \$4,529. Most importantly, there will still be loss of government revenue that could be used to provide better support and services for people who really need them and the tax cuts will still feed increasing financial inequality in Australia. New taxes other than income taxes, such as higher royalties on natural resources used to profit big business or un-earned profits, have not been introduced to counter this inequity.

Synod's position on the role of governments and taxation is captured by a 2017 resolution which (a) expressed concern that, due to a lack of resources, Australian Governments are increasingly unable to fulfil their core functions of assisting all people to reach their full potential and protect the vulnerable in our community; (b) advocated progressive and a broader range of taxation that increases equity in our society, rather than the opposite.

JustAct proposes that we call on the Federal Government to modify tax benefits to promote equity and ensure has sufficient revenues to support people to reach their full potential and be free from abuse and fear.

Andrea Lindsay

DRYSDALE

Service on Mothers' Day

Sunday 12 May is our Mothers' Day service. Jenni's team is presenting a photographic dedication to our mothers during the worship and would very much like to include a picture of your mother in it. Please forward the photo and your Mum's first name so that it can be included. You may send an electronic copy to the church email drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au or take a photo on your phone and forward it to Marie on 0410 436 361.

PORTARLINGTON

Large print wording

For anyone having difficulty reading the screens in worship, please note that a large print copy of the weekly worship service (especially hymns that are not in the large print *Together in Song* hymn book, responsive prayers, etc) can be made available. Please speak with Joy or Joan if you would like one printed for you.

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au, by Tuesday evening. Notices are generally repeated once, or twice if there is sufficient space. So, please send them in ahead of the event or desired date.