

**JIM (Justice and International Mission – Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of VicTas)** is holding their annual **Convention: Growing Peaceful Communities** on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October**, 9.30 – 4.15 at the Centre for Theology and Ministry 29 College Cres. Parkville. \$30 metro \$20: conc./non metro. Notice Board

**Uniting VicTas ([www.vtuniting.org](http://www.vtuniting.org)) Don't forget to go online and sign the Homelessness Petition**

*We respectfully acknowledge the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung – the Traditional Owners of Port Phillip. We pay our respects to their Elders and community past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.*

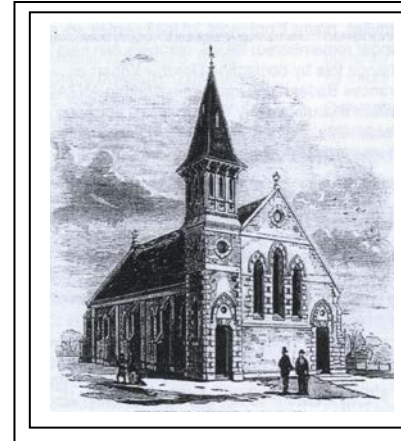
Date	19 August	26 August	2 September	9 September
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	David P Brian	David P Roma	David P Melissa	David P Randall
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Janet	Louise	Maureen	Brian
<i>Flowers</i>	Maureen	Desleigh	Mary	Andrej/Petra
<i>Coffee</i>	Andrej & Petra	Louise	Maureen	Janet/Brian
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Brian/Janet	Mary	Darren/Melissa	Andrej/Petra

**Church**  
 Corner Chapel & Carlisle Sts  
 St Kilda 3182. Ph:  
**Engagement Hub**  
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[www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au)  
**Church phone no.**  
**0458 417 708**

**VISION STATEMENT:**  
 As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church Parish Mission strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

**NEWSLETTER DETAILS:**  
 Desleigh Kent is the editor of the Newsletter. **Contributions are welcome and can be sent to her at [desleighk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au)**

If you would like to be part of a growing congregational email list (and receive a full colour copy of the church newsletter in pdf format), please contact Rob Hess at [Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au)



**St Kilda Uniting Church  
 Parish Mission  
 NEWSLETTER  
 Volume 53, Issue 29  
 Sunday, 19 August 2018**

**A very warm welcome to everyone today. Rev. David Pargeter will lead us in worship. Please stay for tea/coffee and conversation afterwards.**

**Bible Reading: Luke 18: 1 – 8 pg. 1155**

**From David:**

This month's **focus on prayer** has been rather thought-provoking – especially for me as I spend time preparing for our gatherings on Sunday. It's been good to concentrate on this dimension of spiritual life which is common to people of all faiths, and some people of no particular faith. Over the past 2 weeks I have introduced some of you to my own understanding of prayer. How it has evolved as a consequence of time and experiences to the stage where I now see prayer as the "Heart learning to speak" and prayer as "Empathic Imagination".

**Prayer** is such an ancient religious practise that it's taken almost for granted as being a 'natural' expression of faith; an activity which, by its very nature, comes easily to everyone. However, I know this is not true for everyone. Indeed, true only for a few. And I'm not one of them.

Of course there are people for whom prayer comes as easily as breathing. But that is not my personal experience. Probably because I've had too many encounters with prayers as manipulation, or prayer as gossip, or prayer as failure, or prayer as self-interest. **I now approach this thing called prayer with much greater humility and even greater care.**

**PTO**

I discovered quite early on in my Christian journey that when I pray silently (in my head so-to-speak) either my tinnitus became overpowering, or I got lost or distracted by so many other thoughts. I found myself flitting from thoughts about the poor in Africa to fixing a leaking tap, or remembering a bill I'd forgotten to pay. On the other hand, when I prayed out loud I could concentrate differently but quickly became psychologically uncomfortable with what I was doing.

It seems to me that every person has to work it out for themselves and search among a range of practises in the hope of finding something that works. Each of us needs to think just a little bit about what **prayer** is and what kind of 'other' is being engaged with, because the kind of prayer we engage in says volumes about the kind of G-d that inhabits our inner world. Socrates at his trial said that an unexamined life is not worth living. I think the same could be said about an unexamined 'prayer life'.

In closing, let me add that **music** works for me – it seems to open up all sorts of connections. **Pondering on a photograph** takes me into some interesting places. I find **listening to the prayers of others** very helpful – especially when the head is trying to make sense of what is in the heart. I love hearing a bunch of words put together thoughtfully.

Anyway, have a think about it.  
Shalom  
David

### Songs/Hymns

**TiS 681: Lord let me see**

**Search me O God**

1. Search me O God, and know my anxious heart.

Behind me and before me,  
you lay your hand upon me.

2. Where might I hide to flee your tender touch?

No darkness or the ocean hides me  
from your devotion.

***You know my every need:***

***You know my thoughts, my joy, my crying.***

***God, your wisdom ways surround me at my birth, my dying.***

3. Woven by you

Deep in my mother's womb;  
That moment of conception  
You knew my life's direction

4. Search me, O God,  
And purify my ways.

O teach me love surpassing  
Guide me in all that's lasting.

**Chorus, then repeat verse 1**

### Notices

**\*CHURCH DINNER is Saturday week 1 September. 6.30pm. at Louise and Matt's house. List on Notice Board. Please indicate if you are coming and what food contribution you would like to make.**

**REV DR CORALIE LING** is continuing her sessions on **Women Working for Peace** at the **Kildara Centre**, Rear 39 Stanhope St., Malvern. **Tuesdays: August 21, 28. 1.30 – 3.30pm. Cost \$10 per session.**

**PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK:** Next **Sunday 26 August at 3:00pm. A multi-faith panel on contemporary concerns** facilitated by Lucas Taylor; **Venue:** Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church, corner of Burke Road and Coppin Street, Malvern East.

**163 TABLE CONVERSATIONS Sharing Food – Sharing Ideas.** The next **T. C.** is on **Tuesday 11 September.** The speaker will be **Lindsay Cox**, an archivist from the Salvation Army – he will talk about the Limelight Studio which provided the first film production in Australia. **Nibbles 6.15** followed by dinner. All welcome – bring your friends! **Please RSVP to Janet 0417 670 132.** BYO drinks. Donations appreciated.

**An extra 163 TABLE CONVERSATIONS** will be held on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Perceptions of Cuba.** A number of TCgroup and church members have been to Cuba, so an evening of photos and information about their visits is being prepared. Maureen, Ula and Glen will be major presenters. **Nibbles 6.15 followed by dinner. Please RSVP** as above.

The next **READING & DISCUSSION GROUP** evening is at Mary and Brian's home **Thursday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm**

**CHURCH CAMP, October 26 to 28 at Merricks. More information to come**

**BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP)** will hold **Discussion 3, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 1.30 – 3.30pm** where they will show the film "**Chauka, please tell us the time**" directed by Behrouz Bouchani and Arash Kamak Sarvestani. It will be introduced by Janet Galbraith who will also talk about Behrouz's recent book **No Friend but the Mountains.** **Brigidine Ministry Centre, 54 Beaconsfield Pde., Notice Board**

**BAYSIDE REFUGEE ADVOCACY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION** is holding a lecture and Q&A by former President of the Human Rights Commission, **Professor Gillian Triggs plus Exhibition of Photographs by Yannis Behrakis. Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Hampton Uniting Church, 17 Service St., Hampton. Notice Board**

**CHRIST CHURCH**, Acland St., is having an **EXHIBITION** of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> cent. embroidered ecclesiastical textiles 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September. **Introductory talk by Dr Churchman with wine and cheese Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. \$20**