

PORT MELBOURNE UNITING CHURCH is running a program *Grow & Eat* these next school holidays. **Grow & Eat** is a family activity suitable for 4-12 year olds and their parents or carers.. **Wednesdays 1.30 – 3pm** in the hall of the church, 144 Bridge St, Port Melbourne (enter via Nott Street)

COVID RESTRICTIONS: Please wear a mask at all times when inside and especially while singing. Keep your distance from others. Register with the QR code – the “welcome at the door” person can help you with this. Please use the hand sanitizer. Tea and coffee permitted and this will be served to you

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam 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	27 June	4 July	11 July	18 July	25 July
Worship	David	David	David	David	David
Assistance	Roma	Randall	Louise	Mary	Melissa
Welcome at door	Wendy	Louise	Roma	Darren	Maureen Roma
Flowers	Maureen	Desleigh	Louise	Mary	Maureen
Coffee	Melissa	Louise	Roma	Melissa	Louise Mary
Rubbish collection	Darren	Randall	Randall	Mary	Darren

Church
163 Chapel St., St Kilda. 3182
(cnr Chapel & Carlisle Sts.)

Engagement Hub
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St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

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Church phone no.

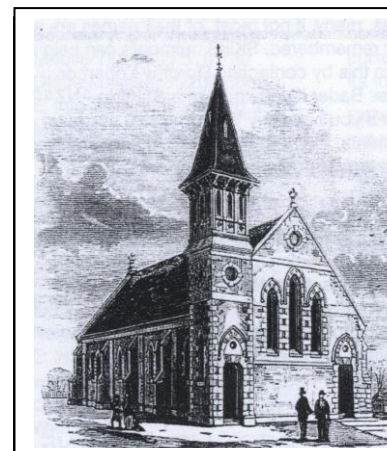
0458 417 708

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 and distributor of the Newsletter. If you would like to receive a copy of the church newsletter each week or if you wish to be removed from the list, please contact Desleigh: desleighk@ozemail.com.au
Contributions to the content are also welcomed.



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 56 Issue 22

Sunday, 27th June 2021

A warm welcome to everyone today. Rev. David Pargeter will lead our gathering. Most of this service will be recorded and uploaded on the website. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee- this will be served to you. Please remember to physically distance and wear a mask where possible,

READING: Exodus 5: 1 – 9 pg.36 Mark 5: 1 – 20 pg. 667

The Inclusive Bible

FROM DAVID: Thin Places

As we clamber slowly out of lockdowns and restrictions start to ease, we can look forward to a bit of stability with some degree of hopefulness. It’s been a long journey and it has not ended yet.

This morning (Friday), while sitting on my favourite bench with my skinny ‘flat-white’ take-away, I found myself drifting into some deep reflection. I was quite mesmerized by the dark storm clouds that were coming toward me through the entrance to the bay. It felt like I was being approached by a metaphor. In fact, so deep was my reflection, that it took some rather heavy rain drops on my bald head to bring me back to the present.

Whether it’s because I’m getting a bit older, I’m not quite sure, but I’ve become increasingly aware of what Celtic Christians called ‘thin’ places. I struggle to find good words to use to write about it because it resists being described. I’ve read other attempts to capture the experience but none of them quite do it for me.

Cont...

Cont... They relate the experience to things like the power of place; like standing on the windswept crags of Lindisfarne. Or watching a whale shattering the horizon line as it breaches and reaches for the stars. Or the feeling you get when you hold your first child in your arms. Or you find yourself sitting on a log in a forest captivated by sunlight dancing with shadows. I'm familiar with each of those wonderful feelings. But the 'thin place' I experience is different again to any of those moments.

Place has a part to play. As does light, and sound and emotion. But for me it has more to do with what is on my mind and some of the 'heavy' things that I am often trying to make sense of spiritually, psychologically and theologically.

As I watched the clouds forming, I was reminded of footage I had seen of the 'mushroom' cloud above Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That horrendous moment in which 2 bombs took the lives of over 200,000 mostly Japanese civilians. I'm also carrying lots of thoughts and images with me from watching *The Man in the High Castle*. Its alternate histories are haunting me. So many 'what ifs? Then my thoughts roosted upon an article I had read that morning about COVID-19 and how a microscopic virus over a period of 18 months has 'officially' taken the lives of over 4 million people.

To be clear, (and please don't laugh) it's not that I go to, or find that I've stumbled upon a 'thin place' but rather I enter a 'thin place' that seems to appear within me. And as I sit within it, I find that my feeling of 'heaviness' fades and I am at peace with all my questions and doubts. This may sound a bit whacky, but I find myself embraced by what I can only express as love.

Julian of Norwich, theologian and mystic, who lived through some difficult experiences: the Black Plague (which killed half the population of England in the Middle Ages), the Peasant's Revolt and the suppression of the Lollards, was still able to write in *Revelations of Divine Love*, "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well".

That's what my 'thin place' was saying to me on Friday.

Shalom David

SONGS/HYMNS:
On the screen

NOTICES:

BIBLE STUDY (via ZOOM).

This Wednesday 30th June: 7.30 - 8.30 pm.

I received a suggestion for our study group which I think warrants both specific and general attention.

It was prompted by an interesting article which I will forward to you all later for reading and discussion. But before considering the specific, I thought it would be helpful to consider the general. The subject matter comes under the heading of myth. It's a big topic as it includes and goes beyond all religion. It takes us into the dawn of humanity's quest for explanation and meaning, and propels us into the realms of the 'what is to be'. It feels like a good topic for our final series before I retire.

Invitations to the zoom gathering go out around 7 pm for a 7.30 start.

If you are not already included on the bible study list, let David know via email and he will add you to the invitation list. saints163@bigpond.com



The next PCNV meeting is **TODAY Sunday, June 27th from 4 to 5.15pm.** The **Rev Dr Margaret Mayman** will speak about *Progressive Christianity – living it out in congregational and public life*. Margaret is the minister at St Michael's Uniting Church, Collins St., Melbourne
<https://www.pcnvictoria.org.au>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87045470723?pwd=V0xieWRhK1daNFIS2o3bVBqMjRodz09>

A reminder that our **CHURCH DINNER** will be held on **Saturday night 10th July at 6.30pm** – Covid restrictions permitting – at Ruth and Mark's home (address on Church Contact List). **This will be David's last social gathering with us before he retires so do come if you can.** All welcome but we do need to know numbers and what food you could contribute. Please email Desleigh with the information and if you want more information.

desleighk@ozemail.com.au

163 CONVERSATIONS will be on Tuesday July 13th, 6.15 for 6.30. More details to be announced



SPACE2B, 144 Chapel St, St Kilda festival: *Feels Like Home: Multicultural Celebrations* will be held on Sunday 29th August from 12.30 until 3.30pm here at our church. The Carnival parade will leave from Space2b to the church @ 12.30 pm.

The **Induction Service for Rev John Tansey will be at 2 pm on Sunday 18th July** in the Port Melbourne Church. Chair of Presbytery, Tom Spurling, will lead the service.