

FOR YOUR DIARY: The UC in Australia, Synod of Vic/Tas. Justice and International Mission Unit, will hold their annual **CONVENTION** on **Saturday November 6th 9.30 – 4.15**, Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres., Parkville or Online. \$40/25/10 (online).

Theme: OUR FAITH in DEMOCRACY – how do you have a meaningful say? Book www.trybooking.com More information: www.justact.org.au

For those who would like to support the work of the St Kilda Uniting Church, your contribution/s would be gratefully accepted via bank transfer: 013 427 310834465. You only need to indicate “offering” as a reference

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	29 August	5 Sept.	12 Sept	19 Sept	26 Sept
<i>Worship</i>	Lucinda Malgas	Robert Hoskin	Coralie Ling	Lucinda Malgas	Lyn Kroker
<i>Assistance</i>	Mary	Randall	Roma	Wendy	Randall
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Wendy	Melissa	Mary	Louise	Maureen
<i>Flowers</i>	Maureen	Roma	Mary	Deb	Roma
<i>Coffee</i>	Maureen	Darren	Mark	Louise	Roma
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Roma	Mary	Randall	Darren	Randall

Church:
163 Chapel St., St Kilda. 3182
(cnr. Chapel & Carlisle Sts.)
PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Engagement Hub:
101 Carlisle St.
St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

Minister:
www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au

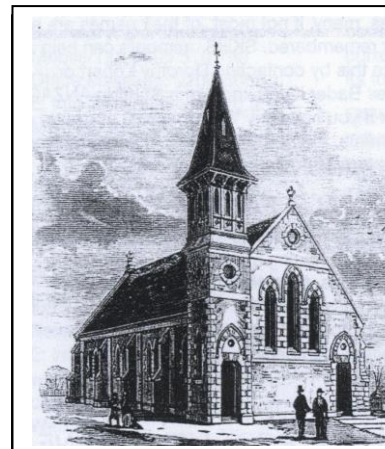
Church phone no.
0493 254 812

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 31

Sunday 29 August 2021

Pentecost 14

This Sunday we will continue our gatherings on **Zoom**. You are most welcome wherever you might be – it is great to have you with us.

Lucinda Malgas will lead us today. Lucinda is a School Chaplain at Kingswood College and has joined us many times online.

The link will be sent on Sunday around 10 am. If you would like to join us, please feel free to connect before the gathering and/or stay afterwards for a chat.

As the lockdown in Victoria continues and ‘lockdown fatigue’ is prevalent, this would be a good time to remind everyone that the church has a new phone number should you have a need to connect: **0493 254 812**

READINGS: Deuteronomy 4: 1-9 . Mark 7: 1-23
The Inclusive Bible

FROM LUCINDA On my daily walks along the well-worn paths I have trampled in my 5km zone, I turn to nature and music for inspiration. I turn to them for hope, for joy, for answers.

I sing along under my mask to Louis Armstrong and open my eyes to ‘the trees of green’ while the red roses are not out just yet. But I do think to myself, it is a wonderful world. I rage at COVID beneath my mask and yell in the words of Gloria Gaynor, in an entirely different context, “I will survive...so long as I know how to love I know I’ll stay alive.....”. I dance or rather walk jauntily with my mask askew to Tina Turner’s Proud Mary....when the fast bits kick in of course.

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I grew up under Apartheid in South Africa and as a designated 'Coloured' by those laws, I was denied certain freedoms that I take for granted now in this incredible country. I learnt very early on, that while it may be hard or seemingly impossible to change our circumstances, we need to stand steadfast in the idea that we *can* choose how we will respond to them.

Viktor Frankl a Holocaust survivor who endured unimaginable suffering stated that 'In the concentration camp every circumstance conspires to make the prisoner lose his hold. **All the familiar goals in life are snatched away. What alone remains is "the last of human freedoms" the ability to choose one's attitude in a given set of circumstances**".

Jesus teaches us that too. He taught us a way of being and living together. His life and his actions show us that we need to see hope despite despair, and we need to practise compassion and love in the face of fear. His is a journey of hope and transformation.

There is so much fear and uncertainty in our world at the moment, centred mainly on the COVID-19 pandemic and the new strains. Fear about major interruptions to our lives; our jobs, our freedoms, our health. Fears for our loved ones and neighbours. And these fears are real and devastating for many. So, where do we find our hope? What do we have to hold on to?

The brokenness and disorientation all around us, is not the final word. There is more to this story. Jesus' love and compassion were transformational and today our love and compassion can do the same.

When we hope, we open ourselves up to the possibility of transformation, we open our eyes to those around us and the possibility of working together in community to create a better world for all. As is written in *The Book of Joy* and explained by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 'Hope sends us into the arms of others' (not literally at the moment!!). And that is a powerful kind of love. When we *choose* to action this sort of love instead of fear, a remarkable transformation takes place.

Now more than ever, the reality that we are bound to a common fate is clear. 'I am because we are'. We have a responsibility to care for the most vulnerable, we have a responsibility to share our possessions and good fortune, we have a responsibility to abide by new ways of being together (and apart). While we may not be able to change our circumstances, we *can* choose how we will respond to them. Day by day, moment by moment.

So, go. Go on those walks, listen to those songs and open your eyes to the beauty and hope and joy that still exists in our world. Steadfast in love! 'Rock Steady.' Your love has an amazing ability to heal.

Lucinda Malgas

NOTICES:

BIBLE STUDY (via ZOOM).

St Michael's Uniting Church in the city has some zoom Bible studies that you are welcome to join:

stmichaels.org.au

One of them is a repeat of their series: **Searchers "Beyond Belief"- this is a two parts series with Prof Marcus Borg. This is by ZOOM. 2nd part today: Sunday August 29 @ 4:30pm – 6.30pm.** Anybody can join and/or leave at anytime. Please note these are the videos only. There will be no discussion following the videos.

PAUSING IN LOCKDOWN. MINDFULNESS BASED STILLNESS MEDITATION MONDAY TO THURSDAY 9.30AM via ZOOM.

SouthPort Uniting Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Pausing In Lockdown –
Online Meditations with John.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96887771248?pwd=L2NabXk0MUZjT3lhaFN6MTdNVFYzZz09> Meeting ID: 968 8777 1248 Passcode: 750657

Teacher: Rev. John Tansey, registered member of Meditation Association of Australia, John has trained as teacher with the Gawler Foundation and has experience leading Meditation in a range of mental health settings.

All welcome

The **UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA** has joined others in calling on the **Australian Government** to show leadership and compassion in its response to the **Afghanistan crisis** urging them to help provide safety to those fleeing danger, including offering additional settlement places for Afghan refugees and permanent protection for those in Australia. *Uniting Church in Australia* <comms@nat.uca.org.au> **If you would consider adding your voice (and everyone counts) - please send a message to:**

Prime Minister of Australia:
scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au

The Minister for Home Affairs:
karen.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au

Leader of the Opposition:
a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au



Afghanistan Emergency

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/>

Help provide urgently needed food, shelter and health supplies to the thousands of displaced families in Afghanistan.

<https://victas.uca.org.au/event/justice-and-international-mission-convention-2021/>