

**BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP)** will hold **Discussion 3**, tomorrow Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 1.30 – 3.30pm. They will show the film “*Chauka, please tell us the time*” **Brigidine Ministry Centre**, 54 Beaconsfield Pde., Albert Pk

**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.**

*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.*

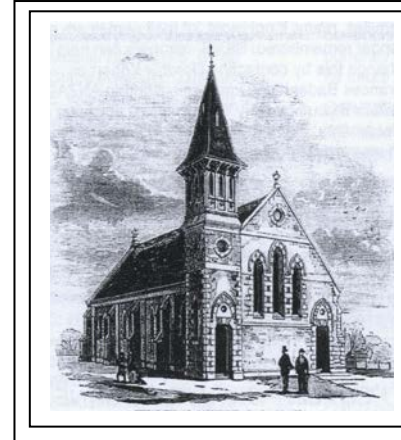
Date	26 August	2 September	9 September	16 September
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	David P Roma	David P Melissa	David P Randall	David P Janet
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Louise	Maureen	Brian	Mary
<i>Flowers</i>	Desleigh	Mary	Andrej/Petra	Deb
<i>Coffee</i>	Louise	Maureen	Janet/Brian	Mary
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Mary	Darren/ Melissa	Andrej/Petra	Randall

**Church**  
Corner Chapel & Carlisle Sts  
St Kilda 3182. Ph:  
**Engagement Hub**  
101 Carlisle St.  
St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478  
**Minister:** Rev. David Pargeter  
Email: [saints674@inet.net.au](mailto:saints674@inet.net.au)  
PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.  
Ph: 0412 334 334  
[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 30  
Sunday, 26 August 2018  
Refugee and Migrant Sunday**

**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: Matthew 6: 1 – 8 pg. 1053**

**From David:** When it comes to the subject of **prayer** I always try to tread very gently and thoughtfully because I know I am entering very sacred space. These past few weeks have been no exception. **I am acutely aware that behind every person who prays there sits a background story.** Stories that emanate from life experience and often from childhood practises which are caricatured by a child with hands together, head bowed and eyes closed. I can remember in primary school opening one eye ever so slightly and through squinted eye lids sneaking a glimpse of the teacher praying. I remember feeling guilty thinking that somehow I might have just ‘undone’ her prayer or broken some magical spell.

Such was the nature of piety back then. There were ‘proper’ and improper ways to pray. The language was (and in many places still is) quite rehearsed with certain introductory phrases designed to clear the approach so-to-speak. Things like, “O God, we come into your presence unworthy as we are etc etc”. “We humbly request etc etc”. **An approach to prayer based on formula and function.** Some of these approaches have their roots way back in time when sacrificial animals accompanied the process of prayer and had to be made clean before they could be offered to appease an angry deity. To fix a drought or silence a volcano. Or heal a child.

**PTO**

And when the act of sacrificing disappeared from our religious practice the spotlight turned upon us. Somehow we had to be rendered worthy and made clean, and so words and phrases replaced washing and blood-letting.

**But times change.** Our contemporary understanding of the universe- physics, geology, science and human need - has reshaped our spiritual landscape and slowly but surely the God Story is changing shape. **Gone, in the most part, is the old man in the clouds who now and then tinkers with history and crafts personal life plans for billions of people.** But having abandoned that image and its associated capricious interventions, the space it once occupied remains vacant. Or, if not vacant, only partially filled. That's not a bad thing – it leaves room for growth.

This can be rather discomfiting and unsettling but slowly and equally surely, we are crafting a new language and fresh concepts with which to participate in prayer. **Emerging out of this uncomfortable space, are thoughtful ideas about prayer as connection or companionship, or thoughtful nearness or spiritual empathy.** At its most simplistic, perhaps prayer is another way of saying “I am in this with you. I can see what you are going through and you have my understanding and my support”.

**The worst of all feelings is the belief that you are going through some awful ordeal on your own. Prayer as solidarity is the one that works best for me. Peace. David**

## Songs/Hymns

### **Breathe in the Morning Air**

**Breathe** in the morning air; inhale its fragrantcy.  
Be still and trust the sacredness that dwells within;  
who's ever near; who knows our fears;  
whose presence calms our restless souls.

**Rest** in this sacred space; lie down in pastures green.  
Be present to the myst'ry of this holy place.  
Hear singing streams; feel earth's embrace;  
See how our lives are touched by grace.

**Walk** in the way of love, of justice and of peace.  
Bring loving to a world of pain and loneliness.  
Reach out in love and gentleness  
to heal the hurt of brokenness.

**Here** in this darkest vale, shadowed by grief and fear,  
we sense a loving presence that our hearts sustain.  
Our fears subside; our minds are calm;  
our panic flees, and peace remains.

**Trust** in the love of God; believe that goodness lives,  
that hope and joy and beauty will embrace our days.  
Pursued by love and touched by grace,  
our thankful hearts will offer praise.

© Pilgrim Publishing 2011 **Words:** Helen Wiltshire  
**Tune:** Love Unknown A song inspired by Psalm 23

## **TiS:590. What a friend we have in Jesus**

### **Love is the Touch**

**Love** is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Love** is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Love** is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Love** is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the pathway the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Words:** Alison m Robertson. **Music:** John Bell

## 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** last session on **Women Working for Peace** at the **Kildara Centre**, Rear 39 Stanhope St., Malvern. This **Tuesday: August 28: 1.30 – 3.30pm. Cost \$10.**

**PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK: Today 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.

**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.**

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

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.**

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