

Our church is opened every Tuesday afternoon between 1and 3pm to provide a quiet space for anyone passing by. If you would like to go on the roster (we need two people at a time), please talk to Mary.

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	2 September	9 September	16 September	23 September
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	David P Melissa	David P Randall	David P Janet	David P Mary
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Maureen	Brian	Mary	Roma
<i>Flowers</i>	Mary	Andrej/Petra	Deb	Roma
<i>Coffee</i>	Maureen	Janet/Brian	Mary	Roma
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Darren/ Melissa	Andrej/Petra	Randall	Darren & Melissa

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

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Ph: 0412 334 334

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

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



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

Bible Reading: Psalm 51 pg. 627

From David: Theme for September - Redemption.

How should I proceed to unpack this particular **doctrine**; a doctrine which for thousands of years has underpinned both the mission of the church and the language of Christianity?

Well, with a mixture of trepidation and hope.

Trepidation, because people have built much of their faith upon this doctrine. **Hope**, because of all the doctrines this one generates most discomfort for lots of people, and a contemporary interpretation of it may well lead to a richer expression of what it means to be both fully human and faithful.

Doctrines exist within and beyond religious traditions, but within any religion they have been given a status of far greater importance than they actually deserve. Especially when they evolve into dogmas that cannot be challenged or reformed. **The word doctrine literally means teaching.** So, all of the 'doctrines' of faith (all faiths) began life as a form of instruction. A set of words crafted by people of faith in an attempt to express the inexpressible. A way of helping people interpret their faith stories. But more importantly, it was instruction influenced by writers in a particular context and culture, and with a particular understanding of life at that time.

PTO

Personal view – doctrines are only helpful when they resist becoming dogmas and remain open to fresh interpretation and insights and new contexts.

The doctrine of redemption is one of those teachings that comes to us out of the dense fog of history and ancient religious practice, and has resisted being modified to express 21st century understandings of what it means to be human and what it means to make mistakes.

I say resisted modification, but really I mean its defenders have opposed most attempts at modifying it. The reason for this is not all that complex. Essentially, it's about power. **The doctrine in its original form enabled a colonising religious system to exercise spiritual influence over people's lives.** Through this doctrine the church (and indeed other religions) has been able to insert itself between people and the God(s) in whom they believe, as the broker.

Historically, it has taken the very ancient concept of human sinfulness and convinced people that they needed some form of cleansing, or salvation or saviour – they needed to be redeemed from themselves. Without such redemption they would not be able to overcome the sense or experience of separation from God.

For thousands of years, third-party sacrifices were used as offerings to satisfy the God(s) and in some cultures, still used. **The doctrine reached its peak when the ministry of Jesus was transformed theologically into the ultimate sacrifice for all humankind and for all time.**

So, let the unpacking begin. **David**

Songs/Hymns

TiS: 147. To God be the glory

TiS: 209. And can it be

TiS: 584. Just as I am

Notices

A big *thank you* to Louise and Matt for hosting the **CHURCH DINNER** last night and to everyone for contributing to such a great night.

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. 20th 7.45pm**. The topic: *Life after Death*. Brian L has prepared a discussion paper as a starter - this is available from Mary. **All welcome**

An extra 163 TABLE CONVERSATIONS will be held on **Friday 21st September - Perceptions of Cuba**. A number of T.C.group 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 to Janet.**

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

Last Monday's discussion at **BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP)** was very informative. Part of the film "*Chauka, please tell us the time*" was shown which highlighted the inhumane conditions faced by detainees on Manus Island. **Chauka** refers to a bird unique to Manus Island, a symbol that Manusians regard with deep pride. In a cruel twist, it was also the name given to the prison's solitary confinement unit. It was filmed on a mobile phone by asylum seeker – Behrouz Boochani. A poetic hypnotic film but also a damning indictment of a brutal policy. See this film if you can.

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. **This Thursday September 6th at 7.30pm. Hampton Uniting Church, 17 Service St., Hampton.**

September Crosslight available on front table.

Copy of the Presbytery Newsletter on Notice Board.

HOLY STITCHES: Exhibition of 19th – 20th c embroidered ecclesiastical textiles. Opening night next **Friday September 7th** at 7pm – payment upon entry \$20. Saturday and Sunday \$5. Christ Church 14 Acland Street St Kilda.

JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION CONFERENCE of the UC Synod of Victas: Saturday 27th October 9 – 5pm.

Topic: Growing Peaceful Communities.

Keynote Speaker: Sean Winter, Head of Pilgrim Theological College. Panel of speakers plus workshops.

Venue: Centre for Theology and Ministry 29 College Crescent Parkville
Cost: \$30 Metro / \$20 non-Metro and concession

Registration Form on Notice Board.