

December 10.00-7.00; Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00-6.00; Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 12.00 noon to 4.00pm. **Concert (Elwood Singers)** Friday 7.00pm, Gold coin donation. **Carols 4.00pm on Sunday.** Maureen and Janet's details on the Contact List.

**SHARE CHRISTMAS CARDS.** Samples and order forms are available in the foyer.

**CROSSLIGHT** for November in foyer.

**NEWSBEAT** (newsletter of Presbytery) on Notice Board

*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	11 Nov	18 Nov	25 Nov	2 Dec
<b>Worship Assistance</b>	John Cranmer Andrej	John Cranmer Randall	Janet/Brian	Coralie Ling Roma
<b>Welcome at door</b>	Louise	Maureen	Roma	Mary
<b>Flowers</b>	Desleigh	Maureen	Roma	Petra
<b>Coffee</b>	Louise	Melissa/ Darren	Roma	Mary
<b>Rubbish collection</b>	Randall	Melissa/ Darren	Mary	Roma

**Church**

Corner Chapel & Carlisle Sts  
St Kilda 3182. Ph:

**Engagement Hub**

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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 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 39**  
**Sunday, 11 November 2018**  
*Centenary of Armistice*

You are most welcome to our worship service. Rev John Cranmer assisted by Rev Dr Robert Hoskin will lead us in worship which today will include Communion. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

**Reading: Isaiah 40 pg. 781**

We welcome the **Rev John Cranmer** who will be leading worship for the next two weeks.

**This month's theme is *courage***, which fits in well with **Remembrance Day**. As I will share in my introduction to communion, I have a lifetime of remembrance, given that my Uncle Ted died in 1941 on the HMAS Sydney. The loss of 645 men meant that it was the worst naval disaster in Australia's service history.

We, as a nation, have trouble with defeat. We want to put it into a sacrificial motif, not unlike the early church dealing with Jesus' death. The early Christians made him into the *lamb of God*, a sin-offering who would return to *'judge the living and dead'*. **In like manner, we made our Gallipoli dead into sacrificial offerings for the birth of a nation.**

The alternative is to think in terms of conspiracy, meaning that there must have been a collusion or some special reason to account for our nation's defeat. I think of the countless books written to explain the 'Sydney's' loss, not to forget the millions spent on the search for Sydney and Kormoran and the ensuing Royal Commission.

PTO

**Remembrance** can be more than finding explanations, whether factual or mythological. I have been watching the SBS series on Tolstoy's War and Peace. Tolstoy refused to glorify war or think of it in terms of a heroic passage. I have just finished the account of the Napoleonic war with its extraordinary suffering and courage in the face of terrible loss and devastation. The book and the film is a necessary reminder that there is no glory in war, but the grim reality of senseless violence and profound loss. The central character, Pierre Bezukhov, is caught up in the French occupation of Moscow, then in a quixotic attempt to assassinate Napoleon, whom he blames for the mayhem, is captured and led away by the retreating French soldiers. Pierre is rescued as the French suffer the ignobility of defeat to both the inclement winter and the Russians.

My life, as others in my society, has been impacted by war, whether it be family loss as in the Sydney, the aftermath of generations of fathers returning from their experience unable to recount their horrors and tribulations, or so many mothers caught up with anxiety of loss, or dealing with their estranged menfolk.

And then there are the **women who served**, leaving their indelible mark on our national story, together

with those struggles of Aboriginal families as they fought for their own land in the face of colonial occupation.

I remember so many stories, as I remember the Jesus story, seeking meaning in suffering, transformation through loss.

*Remembrance Day* brings together all these themes, and hopefully offers an opportunity for healing and restoration.

*For what is memory without the opportunity to avoid past mistakes and create a new world?*

### Hymns

*Stars and Planets: TIS 186: tune 431*

*Comfort Comfort TIS 647*

*Let us talents and tongues employ TIS 537*

### Notices

Two weeks ago many from this church community spent the weekend together at Merricks and a great time was had by all. Material from the weekend will be printed up and distributed for ongoing discussion and implementation.

This week a number from this community are participating in a pilgrimage in Victoria's North East – we wish them well on their journey

### **163 TABLE CONVERSATIONS.**

The next and last for the year is Tuesday week 20<sup>th</sup> Novembe. Our guests will be “*Millennials*” (a person reaching young adulthood in the early 21st century!). who will have something to say about what it is like to be in that age bracket. It should be good fun for our last meeting of the year. Thinking of **next year**, our wonderful cooks Janet and Brian will be away for 6 months of the year, so we will be looking for any suggestions how we could have food for our conversations during that time. There are a number of ways that we could manage, but we will be interested in your thoughts.

**Please let Janet know if you are able to come on 20<sup>th</sup> :04177 670 132 for catering purposes. BYO drinks Donations appreciated.**

Our next, and last **READING AND DISCUSSION** meeting for the year will be on **Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.45 pm at Mary and Brian's place.** Mary will photocopy some material by John O'Donahue to be read and discussed and she needs to know how many people to prepare for. Please let her know **asap.**

**THE BOAB NETWORK – a not-for-profit organisation, 100% volunteer - run** (Robert Hoskin is involved with this group) would welcome volunteers to participate in the **January** school

holiday program in the Kimberley (WA) community at Mowanjum. For details check out [www.boabnetwork.org](http://www.boabnetwork.org). or ring **Robert 0478549165.**

### **FUNDRAISING FOR MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRIES**

The Presbytery of Yarra Yarra is working hard to help fund three mental health ministries. The ministry of Rev John Tansey as Mental Health Chaplain is an essential part of this venture.

**John Cranmer** is making available copies of his latest collection of poems *Dancing on Thin Water* to support John's work. Copies will be available for purchase over the next two Sunday mornings for \$20 - \$12 of which will go to this ministry. Please enjoy the read and support John Tansey's work.

### **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Our tree for this year's festival at Holy Trinity will be a '*Dorcas Tree*'. **Dorcas**, known as Tabitha in the Bible (Acts: 9;36), and the subsequent Dorcas Societies formed world-wide, focused on sewing clothing for those with a need. Contact **Janet** for sewing and craft, **Maureen** for coordination and administration. Input welcomed. **Dates for viewing at Holy Trinity Church–** Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday 7<sup>th</sup>