



Baptism of Bryan and Georgia Grace with Laura and David 1/3/2020

Date	22 March	29 March	5 April	12 April Easter	19 April
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	David Brian	David Wendy	David Mary	David Randall	David Janet
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Janet	Roma	Melissa	Louise	Wendy
<i>Flowers</i>	Maureen	Roma	Mary	Deb	Desleigh
<i>Coffee</i>	Janet	Roma	Mark	Louise	Brian
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Randall	Mary	Randall	Randall	Roma

Church

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

Engagement Hub

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Church phone no.

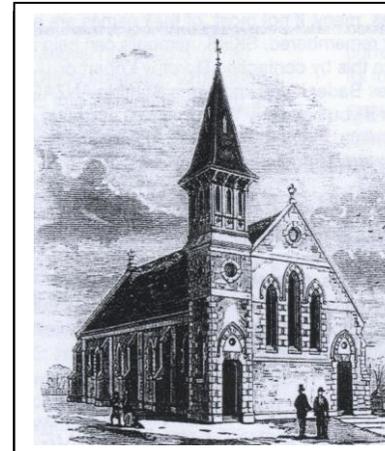
0458 417 708

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 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 55, Issue 08

Sunday, 22 March 2020

LENT 4

Welcome to our service this morning. Today Rev. David Pargeter will lead us in worship – this will include discussion to consider the ways that we can do “church” for the immediate future.

Bible Readings: The Inclusive Bible

From David:

To say that we are living in interesting times is clearly an understatement!

But living through them is going to be the name of the game for all of us. We probably all hold various perspectives about the need for what appear to be dramatic shutdowns here and around the world, but a state-wide declaration of a public health emergency can't be ignored. Social distancing will be the key to halting the spread of this virus. So we need to be sensible, practical, level-headed and thoughtful.

So, much of our ‘social life’, including our church life, is going to be impacted. Clearly, the goal of most governments around the globe is to reduce the number of infections and the possibility of over-burdening the health system so that it can effectively care for those who do get sick and seriously ill from COVID 19. They are urging us to do this by minimising human contact, slowing down the rate of infection, avoiding an immediate peak in the number of people diagnosed, and flattening the infection rate to manageable levels.

PTO

[Continued from page 1 ...]

Time will tell if it works or not. But it is the one significant thing we can all do.

Meanwhile, we will try to play our part in minimising risks and at the same time ensuring that people, while experiencing isolation, feel neither abandoned nor neglected - that we all have someone we can talk to or call upon if the need arises.

This Sunday will likely be the last time that the church gathers at 163 Chapel St for quite a few weeks – we will keep you informed as things change and develop. However, our discussion this Sunday will focus upon how to stay connected.

During the discussion we will ‘keep our distance’ and share ideas. How can we use technology to stay in touch and participate in those things that enrich and nourish our faith? To do that we are going to have to make sure that we have everyone’s contact details eg mobile or home phone numbers, email addresses, postal information etc.

Most ‘traditional’ activities have already started to shut down (AFL season without spectators – how strange is that!) and the things that give people enjoyment and a sense of participating in life will cease for a while. So our challenge is going to

be how to live out being a community and specifically a church community.

Theologically speaking, the priesthood of all believers will need to be re-awakened, or should, I say resurrected. The concept of ministering to each other.

I suspect that during this most challenging period, we might actually discover a very different way of living that could prove to be very good for us. A rediscovery of what is important in life.

**Shalom
David**

NOTICES:

The following activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice:

TODAY March 22nd The PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK of Victoria meeting and meal.

APRIL 14 163 CONVERSATIONS

FROM NEXT Wednesday March 25th STUDIES series at the church

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5TH - 2PM WALK FOR JUSTICE - AT THE STATE LIBRARY.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT SACRED HEART CHURCH, 83 GREY STREET, ST KILDA WEST

OUR AGM SUNDAY 26TH APRIL.



Pandemic

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times? Cease from travel. Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is. Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart. Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely, that has come clear.) Do not reach out your hands. Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar

It’s difficult to think of anything except COVID- 19 at the present time but with **EASTER** just around the corner, it should make you feel good if you buy Fairtrade Easter eggs and other treats. Aldi, Ferrero, Coles and Heart of Chocolate have been busy creating chocolate treats that are too tempting to turn down. By supporting Fairtrade at Easter, you’re helping to [empower small-scale cocoa farmers](#) in developing countries to improve their lives and livelihoods, invest in their communities and control their futures.

Material re COVID - 19 available in foyer or can be emailed to you on request.

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung – the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. We pay our respects to their Elders - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.