

BULLETIN

Welcome to the Bulletin – Robert Hoskin will lead our church gathering today.

From Robert: *CONVERSATIONS*

What a privilege and opportunity to speak with someone from another culture. Our conversations began over six months ago, and we have been in contact ever since. Ryon, whom you will meet in this morning's worship, is a teacher in the Black Pearl Network's English-speaking program. She, and fourteen other teachers are involved in teaching English to Papuan students. The intent is very simple. If the students can speak English, they are more likely to get employment later in government, the mining and tourist industries or qualify for scholarships to overseas universities.

I began speaking to Ryon, and over time, our Sunday group has expanded to three people, all sharing their experience, whether as they encountered worship or life itself. All three women, Ryon, Mina and Keri, attend local churches and with it the intent to explore what discipleship means in their lives. I asked if they would share a little of what Christmas means to them when I spoke with them last Sunday. They have followed up this conversation with videos which I will play in today's worship. It is a joy to see the effect of many conversations, particularly in their ability to share Papuan life in a second language.

I have also been in constant contact and conversation with my friend Ross Gobby who lives in Dunsborough, South of Perth. Ross has accompanied me on many trips to the Kimberley, and I returned the favour by joining with him in this year's trip to Papua. I have asked Ross to take responsibility for our prayers of intercession, knowing that his life is a wonderful example of what it means to put prayer into practice. He is always keen to explore creative ideas for being involved with the people of Mowanjum and Papua.

Last year, he helped organise a visit to Kunmunya, the lands on the remote Kimberley coast where Presbyterian missionaries first met the ancestors of the current day Mowanjum people. The trip required six years of planning and obtaining grants of around \$70,000. It would not have happened without Ross' careful involvement in this project, nor the programs run by the Black Pearl Network which now offers classes in English language to over one thousand students across Papua and West Papua. Ross is one of the members of a wonderful group of people from Floreat Uniting and other churches in WA, as well as extraordinary people like Fred Bundah who attended a worship service earlier in the year, or like Ryon, Mina and Keri who have sent me material for this Sunday, who all seek to live their faith through action.

Our work will continue next year, and I will be calling for volunteers who may be interested in conversing with people in Papua, through letter writing and perhaps other means. I will provide further details early in the New Year, but please let me know if you have an interest in this important way of sharing in the Spirit.

Robert

CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM Sunday 6th December 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Readings: Mark 1: 1 - 8

Robert Hoskin will lead our church gathering today, which will include communion. If you would like to participate in Communion all you need is a glass of something of your choice and a piece of bread.

Today is the second Sunday in the Christian season of Advent - a period of preparation and anticipation for Christmas Day – we light the candle today for PEACE..

An invitation will arrive in your inbox around 9.45 am for anyone who feels like a chat – the waiting room will be open from that time.

If you have not joined before please send David your email so that an invitation can be sent to your inbox. saints163@bigpond.com

- ❖ **Next Sunday December 13th we plan to return to the church building/garden area for our gathering – Andrej /Petra will make the service available on our website as a youtube hyperlink.**

David plans to have two more Bible Studies before Christmas. Wednesday 9th we will focus on 'Who was Herod' and 16th December on 'Caroling' 7.30 to 8.30pm. **ALL WELCOME**

If are NOT already on the list for the Studies and would like to join in, please send David your email so that you can be sent the link on the night.

CHRISTMAS CAROL Service will be held either in the church or in the garden of the Engagement Hub on ***SUNDAY DECEMBER 20TH AT 6.30PM.*** This will be an evening of music, song, story and celebration of a faith that was made wonderfully authentic in Jesus of Nazareth. Come along and celebrate the end of a very profound year

CHRISTMAS DAY Service will be held either in the church building or in the garden of the Engagement Hub at 9.30 am.

As for all attendances please ensure that you write your name and contact details in the book provided, that you use the hand sanitizer and that you adhere to physical distancing guidelines. As much as we would love to see you, please do NOT attend if you are unwell.

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Give meaningful gifts to friends and family. When you choose a Gift for Peace, you are giving a family a brighter future and your loved one will receive a beautiful card telling the story behind the program their gift is supporting. A thoughtful and kind gift for friends and family.

CHRISTMAS BOWL. This year we encourage you to give to the Christmas Bowl on-line <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au> If you would prefer to use a donation envelope please contact Mary; brimary@iprimus.com.au

The December edition of **CROSSLIGHT** is available online <https://victas.uca.org.au>. There will be hard copies available at the church from next Sunday.

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Parliament urged to reject expansion of the cashless debit card

DECEMBER 2, 2020



Uniting Aboriginal & Islander
Christian Congress



UAICC, UnitingCare push back against cashless welfare card

As Federal Parliament considers extending the cashless welfare card, Rev Mark Kickett says an extension will disempower and disadvantage people on low incomes.

Human Rights Day is next Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm. Yirmal, who has sung at the Baptist church before, is on the program. He is featuring in this online Human Rights Day fundraiser for **Children's Ground**. CG is an Indigenous-led 25 year strategy to improve the lives of children. They do this by partnering with whole communities. Click on the link for more details. www.childrensground.org.au

A poster for a Human Rights Day fundraiser. The background is a vibrant, circular Aboriginal dot painting in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'children's ground' featuring a stylized sun or flower icon. The main text is centered in a yellow oval. At the bottom of the oval, the text 'SUPPORT FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES' is written in a white, slightly curved font. The text inside the oval reads: 'Human Rights Day Fundraiser FOR OUR CHILDREN December 10 | 7.30pm AEDT'. Below this, it says 'Featuring streamed performances by: Missy Higgins, The Cat Empire, Emma Donovan, The Teskey Brothers, Yirmal, Gina Williams (MC) & Guy Ghouse'. At the bottom of the oval, it says 'FREE ONLINE EVENT childrensground.org.au'.

Please visit our website: www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au It is updated on a regular basis by Petra. If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of the church, the best way is through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465. The only identification needed is 'offering'. By mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to desleighk@ozemail.com.au

VISION STATEMENT. As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

As we gather in our various places via Zoom, we acknowledge the *Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung People* as the traditional custodians of this land on which our church building stands. We give thanks for their commitment to nurturing this land over many generations. We honour the sacred stories that belong to this land. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and for those emerging who will lead their communities into the future. We commit ourselves to empowering children to continue the journey of reconciliation on this land.