

instruments, singing, or anything else, as long as you do it publicly. More information can be [found here](#), or contact Tejopala Rawls, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) +61 (0)498 475 056 www.arrcc.org.au



New Jobseeker payment fails to lift people out of poverty. More people will be pushed into poverty after the Government raised the base rate of the JobSeeker payment by a mere \$3.60 a day. The Uniting Church Assembly joined UnitingCare Australia in calling on the Government to do better. **Poem by Robert Hoskin**

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam 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	28 February	7 March	14 March	21 March	28 March
<i>Worship</i>	David	David	David	David	David
<i>Assistance</i>	Mary	Wendy	Randall	Roma	Melissa
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Wendy	Louise	Mary	Maureen	Wendy
<i>Flowers</i>	Roma	Deb	Maureen	Louise	Desleigh
<i>Coffee</i>	Randall	Louise	Maureen	Mark	Darren
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Randall	Mary	Roma	Mary	Darren

Church

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

Engagement Hub

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St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

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0458 417 708

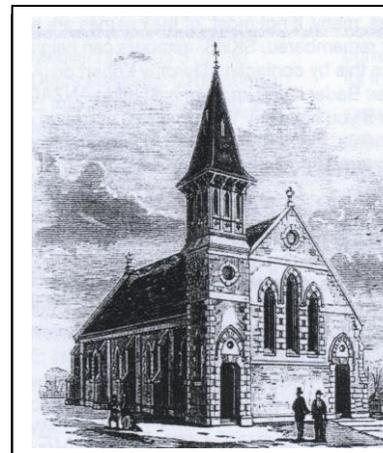
VISION STATEMENT:

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 56 Issue 05

Sunday, 28 February 2021

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

A warm welcome to everyone. David will be conducting the service this morning. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation. For those attending, it is important to follow all the 'COVID' regulations of signing in, safe-distancing and using the hand-sanitiser. Thank you.

Bible Readings: Psalm 22: 1 – 14 pg 377 . Matthew 26: 36 – 41 pg 662
The Inclusive Bible

From David: We live in HOPE

During COVID, I have stayed in touch with a young Thai man whom we first met over 13 years ago in Thailand. He's a taxi driver who picked us up from Phuket airport one time and gave me his card. Since then, our friendship has grown, and our conversations have evolved from talking about the weather and tourists to talking about family, friendships and faith. He lives in Phuket town. He is a Muslim and loves talking about faith stuff. The conversation never becomes competitive in any way; just a simple delighting in each other's attempts to live faithfully in a complicated world.

In 2019, he was doing well with his taxi business. He had secured a regular contract with a Chinese tourist company. He would pick up tourists as they disembarked their cruise ship at Patong and take them around the island. **He was doing so well that he decided to buy a small piece of land and grow bananas. He was so excited.** The farm was going to enable him to better support his elderly parents. He is the eldest son. His dad could help with caring for the plants, and they would generate sufficient income to pay for medicines for his mum, and help his sister send her two daughters to school.

Cont.....

Cont.....

I suspect you all know what's coming next. You've guessed it – COVID.

Places like Phuket are almost totally dependent on tourism. Tourists bring money in, they spend it and then they leave. Hotels are at the obvious end of a long line of ancillary services – right down to the quick thinking tuk tuk drivers and the beggar with no legs or arms propped against the doorway of a jewellery shop.

Talking with Yuta last week, he told me that the tourist industry in Phuket had totally collapsed.

I know the tourist industry around the world has taken a huge hit because of the pandemic, seriously impacting people like our new Church Council member, Glen. Many tourism dependent operations in Australia may not survive. When we first learned of the outbreak in Wuhan, I don't think anyone imagined the scale or the duration of the disruption and damage that a virus could do to the economies of so many countries and the livelihoods of so many people.

I think a lot about Yuta and his family, and Glen, and others I know personally who have been unable to perform their music in local pubs.

I hold them in my prayers, hoping that they will 'hold fast to that which is good', that their 'Good Friday' experience of life will end soon with a resurrection of a different kind.

We live in hope. Shalom. David

Songs/Hymns – on screen

- *Here in this place*
- *Watch and pray*

NOTICES:

**BIBLE STUDY on ZOOM
Wednesday 7.30 – 8.30 pm.**

This week we will continue our deeper examination of Holy Week by looking at the day after Palm Sunday: 'On the following Day'.

**For your calendar:
March 3, 10, 17, 24. Holy Week begins Monday 29th March.**

If you wish to be a part of this particular journey and are not already included on the bible study list, let David know via email and he will add you to the invitation list.



**Forests, Faith & the Frontline:
Why the Cosmic Christ is calling you to stand up for Creation
With Rev Alex Sangster,
TODAY February 28 from 4:00pm - 5:00 pm**

**Join PCNV zoom meeting by clicking on the link below from 3:50 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344906739?pwd=afpedznid2nnrhinuq2wxnbynzOut09meetingid:87344906739>
passcode: 643853 Feel free to invite other interested friends.**

SYNOD of Victoria & Tasmania is meeting this weekend on-line. Key items include the election of a Moderator Elect. Proposals from the Justice & International Mission cluster around justice and faith issues, including climate change and gambling. How as a church we are responding to covenanting between ourselves and our First Nation peoples. Reports from the various Uniting church bodies such as Uniting, Uniting AgeWell, Uniting Housing and U Ethical.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER this Friday 5th March This year's World Day of Prayer will be at **Holy Trinity, Port Melbourne** (162 Bay St), 10.30 am.. **The 2021 service has been prepared by women from the churches in Vanuatu.**



City of Port Phillip International Women's Day 2021

A free conversation-based event followed by light refreshments.

Date: Thursday 4 March 2021

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=711948>

The JIM Cluster at the Uniting Church jim@victas.uca.org.au
Unlocking Victorian Justice: Webinar One - OPCAT

(Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)) Hosted by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, webinar one of the **Unlocking Victorian Justice** series is about OPCAT - An opportunity to prevent the ill-treatment, torture and death of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. However, since this watershed report was handed down, at least 455 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have died in custody.

Wednesday 3 March, 9:00 AM (AEST): Online Register: [HERE](#)

Climate Crisis Multi-faith Day of Action - 11th March

Join faith communities around the world for the biggest-ever multi-faith **Day of Action** on the climate crisis called *Sacred People, Sacred Earth*. People can sign onto a multi faith statement the signatories to which will also include globally recognised faith leaders; this will be launched on the day. Join the **Day of Action** by making your church one of hundreds of places of worship all around the world 'sounding the alarm' for the climate. You can do this by ringing bells if you have them, playing bagpipes or other