

From Uniting Church in Australia. It's been a huge fortnight in aged care. With the release of the Royal Commission's Final Report, UnitingCare Australia, as part of the Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC), has continued to share the key message: 'It's time to care about aged care'.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

1. **SIGN THE PETITION!** Go to [careaboutagedcare.org.au](http://careaboutagedcare.org.au) and sign it today
2. **ASSIGN A CHAMPION** Choose someone passionate in your congregation to champion the campaign and ensure as many people get on board as possible.
3. **SHARE OUR CONTENT** Share [our resources](#)

*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	14 March	21 March	28 March	4 April Easter	11 April
<i>Worship</i>	David	David	David	David	David
<i>Assistance</i>	Randall	Roma	Melissa	Desleigh	Wendy
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Mary	Maureen	Wendy	Maureen	Deb
<i>Flowers</i>	Maureen	Louise	Desleigh	Deb	Louise
<i>Coffee</i>	Maureen	Mark	Darren	Louise	Randall
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Roma	Mary	Darren	Randall	Louise

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(cnr Chapel & Carlisle Sts.)

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**Church phone no.**

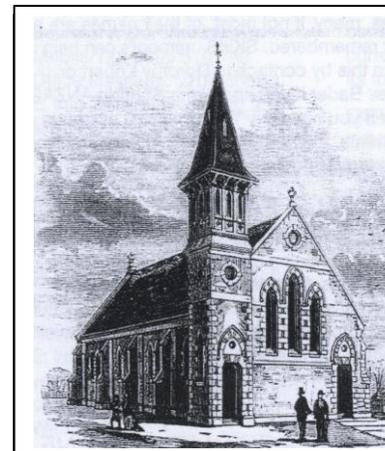
**0458 417 708**

**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](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au)  
Contributions to the content are also welcomed.



**St Kilda Uniting Church  
Parish Mission**

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 56 Issue 07

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT**

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

**Bible Readings: Exodus 15: 22—16: 1 pg.43: Mark 1: 1—13 pg.664**

*The Inclusive Bible*

**From David: Three Books**

My granddaughter stood looking at all the books on my shelves and said: "Which 3 books did you like the most granddad?" Books 1 and 2 came to mind quickly but number 3 took a bit longer. But not much – a few seconds. It's an interesting exercise if, like me, you've spent a great deal of your lifetime consuming the words, ideas and perspectives of other people.

So, which 3 have you enjoyed most and why? Tell us about them. Now there's a challenge – send a short article to Desleigh or me and we will include it in future editions of the Newsletter.

**Here's my answer to my granddaughter's very thought-provoking question.**

**Book number 1 is JRR Tolkien's - *The Lord of the Rings*.** I have a one volume edition beautifully illustrated and heavy enough to hold a door closed on a windy day. It's a great tale about courage and friendship, and many other themes. I've read the book several times and the character I love the most is Treebeard. Apparently, Tolkien based his deep booming voice; his *hrum hroom*, on the mannerism of his friend C. S. Lewis. **Cont.....**

### Cont.....

**Book number two is *The Bible*.** I had bumped into bits of the bible at school and really did not understand it. To be honest, as a young person I didn't like it all that much. Only later, when my life crossed paths with passionate scholars and teachers, did this ancient collection of books come alive for me. **Each time I pick it up now and read a section, I feel like I'm drawing water from a very ancient well that is still fresh enough to quench my spiritual thirst.**

**Book number 3 is *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* by Robert Noonan writing under the name Robert Tressell.** He died in 1911. His book was published after his death in 1915. Born in Ireland in 1870 he emigrated to South Africa when he was 16. He left home declaring he "would not live on the family income from absentee landlordism. He spent much of his adult working life in the Transvaal and was influenced by the politics of the Boer War. He returned to England in 1901.

**This particular book underpinned 2 important decisions in my life: the decision to emigrate to Australia, and a few years later, my decision to go into Christian Ministry.** I was 17 when I first read this book. Living in a city bluntly divided between those who were raised to think they were entitled to everything and those who were encouraged to abandon any aspiration beyond becoming a tradesman. Australia represented a different political culture and fresh opportunities. Christianity

represented the possibility of an egalitarian community.

Robert Noonan was an Irish house painter and sign writer. *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* was written in his spare time, and is a classic piece of working class literature. George Orwell described it as a book that everyone should read. The book has a cast of very real characters: hypocritical Christians, capitalists who know how to exploit and corrupt councillors. **They all create the backdrop for his main audience — the workers who think that a better life is, as he puts it, 'not for the likes of them'. They are the ragged trousered philanthropists who throw themselves into back-breaking work for poverty wages to generate profit for their masters.** The central character is Frank Owen. He's a socialist trying to convince his fellow workers that capitalism is the real source of the poverty that is all around them. But here's the rub, their education has trained them to distrust their own thoughts and to rely on those of their 'betters'.

**Throughout my ministry, I have held in my mind an image of Jesus as the character of Frank Owen. I think of Jesus as having proclaimed the Gospel of *The Ragged Trousered Rabbi*. Perhaps that should be the title of my post-retirement novel!**

I will leave these 3 books to my granddaughter who asked such a thought-provoking question.

Shalom David

### *Songs/Hymns*

**O Lord, hear my prayer (Taize) TiS 741**

**New words to tune of Edelweiss as a closing blessing.**

### *NOTICES:*

#### *BIBLE STUDY (via ZOOM).*

**This Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 – 8.30pm, we will continue our exploration of Holy Week. This week we have arrived at the Wednesday of Holy Week.**

**Wednesday poses one very critical question – why the need for a traitor?**

Invitations to join via Zoom go out around 7pm. 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.

#### *CHURCH COUNCIL met last Thursday*

- **6% for Development.** Each year our church makes donations to organizations recommended by you, our members – they can be local, international or Aboriginal and Islander groups. Please let Randall know if you have suggestions to make.
- **Easter services.**  
*Good Friday* – ecumenical service at **Sacred Heart**, Grey St at **9.30am**. Morning tea to follow.  
*Easter Sunday* – our church **10.30. End of Daylight Saving**

- For your diary, **Church AGM Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>** starting with breakfast. Reports need to reach David no later than **May 9<sup>th</sup>**

### *WCC Christian health networks call for global equity and solidarity for COVID-19 vaccine access*

The World Council of Churches joined with more than 30 Christian health organisations in raising concerns about unequal access to health services and COVID-19 vaccines. In a statement, the organisations urge governments, the international community and pharmaceutical corporations to address this issue. [Read more](#) (Ctrl click)



### *PALM SUNDAY WALK on March 28*

**-.** This is a chance to show solidarity with many individuals and groups who want to welcome people seeking refuge and treat all those who have arrived, with dignity and care. **We walk down Swanston Street ending in the park opposite the Arts Centre.** There will be performances from artists with a refugee background **from 1.30 at the library site.** More information to come.