

This year's **Yaluk-ut Weelam Ngargee** is being extended to a four-day-long celebration and will be held in various locations across the **City of Port Phillip from 25-28 March**. With special concerts, pop up performances, cooking demonstrations, shopping experiences, virtual programs and more happening across the City, it's your time to discover something new. <https://www.ywnf.com.au/>



**Lent Event: your gifts in action. 17<sup>th</sup> February to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. [www.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.unitingchurch.org.au)**

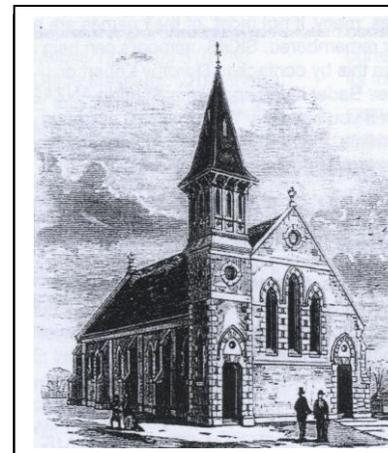
*We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung – the Traditional Owners of Port Phillip. We pay our respects to their Elders and community - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.*

Date	21 March	28 March	4 April Easter	11 April	18 April
<b>Worship</b>	David	David	David	David	David
<b>Assistance</b>	Roma	Melissa	Desleigh	Wendy	Mary
<b>Welcome at door</b>	Maureen	Wendy	Maureen	Deb	Wendy
<b>Flowers</b>	Louise	Desleigh	Deb	Louise	Roma
<b>Coffee</b>	Mark	Darren	Louise	Randall	Roma
<b>Rubbish collection</b>	Mary	Darren	Randall. end Daylight Saving	Louise	Randall

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**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 08**

**Sunday, 21st March 2021**

**FIFTH 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: Acts 10: 9 – 16 pg. 723. *The Inclusive Bible***  
A reflection on **Autumn** by Parker J Palmer from ‘On the brink of everything’

**From David: The year that was.**  
I’m writing this article while sitting on my favourite bench overlooking the bay. It’s 8.30 in the morning.  
I came here almost everyday during ‘lockdown’. It’s where I gave birth to many ideas for articles, themes for online worship, and topics for study. It became a very fertile place for the imagination during an unimaginable year.  
**It became a fertile place because it was an uncluttered space.**  
Stretching out before me was the horizon. Sometimes I could see it very clearly. Sometimes it was obscured by gathering clouds or distant rain. Sometimes the bay was like a sheet of glass and on other days a heaving swelling cauldron of short dark green waves capped with white. Sometimes I sat there in a T-shirt and shorts. Sometimes I sat there under 4 layers of clothing wearing a soft woollen beanie and huddled beneath a bright red umbrella.  
**Every day was different. Each day offering an opportunity for respite from Covid related constraints. Each day, a gift to be unwrapped slowly and appreciated for what it was and what it might be.** Cont.....

## Cont.....

It's hard to imagine that this time last year we were about to enter an extensive period of lockdown; close the church building and become a church online.

**What a year to leave behind, and I would really love to read some of your thoughts on 2020 - the year that was. Please, send them to me.**

Thanks to some tough but good political decisions by the Andrew's government here in Victoria, we managed to suppress the spread of the virus and save many lives. But, as Premier Andrew's expressed in nearly every daily press conference for weeks on end – this was only possible because all (well most) Victorians did their bit. They stayed home. They respected the restrictions. They completely reorganised their family and working lives.

**We endured much for the sake of others and ourselves.**

And, as part of all that, you, us, we, committed ourselves to staying together as a faith community using technology. Zoom enabled us to see each other, share our stories and faith perspectives, and discover how to be a faith community in a very new way. We also got to see what people had hanging on their walls! Now, I know it wasn't the best option for some, so thank you for enduring it. But for many, it was a great experience – especially those who were able to be a part of our community whilst living overseas or interstate, or in other parts of Victoria. So, let's say farewell to a difficult year, but let's not forget all the enriching

experiences. Many people had an opportunity to detox from so many addictions in their lives. To take stock of life and make different decisions; sometimes because they had no other choice. Making space for other things. Space for letting go of stuff and not rushing into filling it again.

**I know all too well that 2021 is going to be a very different year for each of us. It will no doubt have its fair share of surprises (good and not so good) but the challenge is and will always be: how to regard each day as a gift - to be unwrapped slowly and appreciated for what it is.**

Shalom. David

## *Songs/Hymns:*

**TiS: 607 Make me a channel of your love**

**Autumn Hope** (Streets of Laredo)

From sunrise to sunrise,  
the lights are revealing  
A world full of wonder  
By stars, moon and sun.  
We watch the lights dawning  
And feel the sun warming  
It rests on our spirit -  
A new day begun.

The autumn reminds us  
That seasons are changing  
The leaves that are falling  
Like emblems of love.  
The trees are just resting  
Their future, investing  
Preparing their spirit  
To rise like the dove.

Faith has its seasons  
Its winters and spring-times  
Its summers and autumns  
And dark Easter days.  
But hope springs eternal  
Like all things maternal  
And earth from her womb brings  
The brightest of days.

David Pargeter (March 2021)

## *NOTICES:*

**BIBLE STUDY** (via ZOOM).

**This Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 – 8.30pm we will continue our in-depth study of the final week of Jesus's life. We have arrived at day 5 of Holy Week – Holy 'Thursday' - a day of teaching about Jesus and the Passover meal, betrayal, arrest, and sentencing. What is the author of Mark's gospel trying to tell us?**

**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*

**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>**



**PALM SUNDAY WALK on March 28 from 1.30 at the State Library.**

**NB 1pm - Multi-Faith service at Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street**

**This is an important opportunity to raise awareness of the continuing injustice and cruelty experienced by refugees and people who are seeking asylum. This year's Palm Sunday is calling for:**

- Permanent visas for all refugees
- Basic income support for people in the community while their refugee status is assessed
- Release ALL refugees from detention
- An end to offshore processing

**The World Council of Churches (WCC) is making available a prayer to invite its member churches and partners across the world observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination TODAY 21 March. Read more [World Council of Churches](http://WorldCouncilofChurches.org) ([oikoumene.org](http://oikoumene.org))**