

Cont...finances, thereby hopefully improving their lives in challenging situations. It is a free course, running at their St Kilda premises (next door) 161 Chapel St., for eight weeks, every Tuesday morning from 20 April. For more details, contact PPCG Education Coordinator, Pat Hamdorf, on 85986667 or email pat@ppcg.org.au.



Lent Event: your gifts in action. 17th February to 29th March 2021. www.unitingchurch.org.au

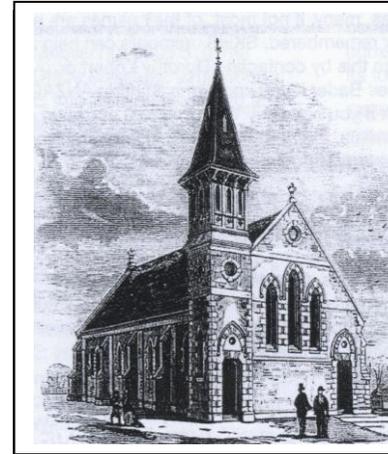
We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung – the Traditional Owners of Port Phillip. We pay our respects to their Elders and community - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Date	28 March	4 April Easter	11 April	18 April	25 April ANZAC DAY
<i>Worship</i>	David	David	David/ Ishe	David	David Roma
<i>Assistance</i>	Melissa	Desleigh	Wendy	Mary	
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Wendy	Maureen	Deb	Wendy	Melissaa
<i>Flowers</i>	Desleigh	Deb	Louise	Roma	Desleigh
<i>Coffee</i>	Darren	Louise	Randall	Roma	Darren
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Darren	Randall. end Daylight Saving	Louise	Randall	Melissa

Church
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Minister: Rev. David Pargeter
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PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.
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www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au
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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
Contributions to the content are also welcomed.



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 56 Issue 09

Sunday, 28st March 2021

PALM SUNDAY

A warm welcome to everyone today. David will be conducting the service this morning. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation. Even though restrictions re gatherings have been eased, it is still important to sign in when you arrive, either in the book or by QR code, and that we still adhere to safe-distancing and hand-sanitising. Thank you.

Bible Readings: Mark 11: 1 – 11 pg. 672 *The Inclusive Bible*

From David: *That Final Week and a woman called Mary*

It's Palm Sunday, and so begins the final week in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Not many people in history have had the last week of their lives covered so thoroughly or in such a dramatic way. And it is a week full of political and theological drama. **It all comes to a head in this final week – from Palm Sunday through to Good Friday.** But really, it's been on this trajectory from day 1 of his ministry. Since He stepped out of the river Jordan, spent time in the wilderness working out how to be the anointed one, and then returned to Galilee to fulfil His mission – to restore the 'lost sheep of the House of Israel'. **From Jordan to Good Friday. In so many ways, Jesus's whole life has been a reflection of his last week.**

But it's in this final week that things come into a very sharp focus: the power of the Roman Empire and the politics of the Jewish Temple Institution conspire together to crush him. To crush the one who preached about an alternative way of living: an alternative to empire. Or, as Dominic Crossan puts it, in that last week, *the already present kingdom of heaven meets the already present Empire.*

Cont.....

Cont.....

This final week, as it is written up by Mark (a friend of Paul and most probably writing on behalf of Peter) offers a powerful insight into how the ‘status quo’ always seeks to suppress any resistance to its authority and culture. It was true 2000 years ago and it’s just as true today.

We see it being played out at this very moment in Federal politics, and I find it extremely poignant that all of this is happening during the season of Lent. **This incredibly profound season in which the powerless confront the powerful. When the powerful will not listen but seek instead to vilify and undermine those who seek to expose their hypocrisy. When those with authority conspire together to defeat those who have had enough.**

We know how the Easter Story ends and without the courage of one particular woman, we might never have heard about it. **Of course, I’m talking about Mary. Faithful Mary. Possibly the most infamous example of patriarchal ‘slut-shaming’ in human history. A much-loved disciple who had her reputation trashed, and voice silenced for decades and centuries. The Church itself is not innocent with regard to this attitude toward silencing the voice of women.**

So, while I suspect most of us hope that when it comes to what is unfolding in Canberra this Easter, that those who are seeking and working for a radical change in culture and practice with regard to women, will indeed be heard

and, just like the Easter Sunday story, it will be good news for everyone.

But what will the Good News look like? Will it include being able to speak out without fear of retribution? Will it include no suppression and greater representation of women in positions of influence and power? Will it include something as straightforward and as simple as respect?

We live in hope, but more importantly, such ‘good news’ must come to life wherever patriarchy reigns and misogyny flourishes.

Thank God for courageous women in every era. David

Songs/Hymns:

Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning. (Tune TiS 52)

**Video of new hymn: 2 processions
TiS 418: She sits like a bird**

NOTICES:

BIBLE STUDY (via ZOOM).

Next week’s study, Wednesday 31th March, 7.30 – 8.30pm, concludes this current series on the final week of Jesus’s ministry and life. Last week we looked at Maundy Thursday. **This week we will take a closer look at Good Friday – a strange way of talking about such an awful day. But we have St Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury to thank for that. He**

wrote a book in 1097 constructing a theology in which Jesus becomes the purest sacrifice possible for a sinful humanity.

But this is not the only Christian understanding of Jesus’s crucifixion. Indeed, you cannot catch even a whiff of it in the gospel of Mark. The reality is that it took almost a 1000 years for ‘Jesus the sacrificial lamb’ to dominate all other understandings.

On Wednesday we will look at what Mark had to say. 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.

EASTER SERVICES.

Good Friday – Ecumenical service at **Sacred Heart**, Grey St. at **9.30am**. Teash Taylor, co-pastor from St Kilda Baptist, will preach. Morning tea to follow.

Easter Sunday – our church **10.30 am** (End of Daylight Saving)

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

**TODAY -PALM SUNDAY WALK
2pm 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 and



From Mary: FILM Afternoon this Tuesday March 30th It’s three weeks since we met last and there is another group of movies for us to choose from. We are planning to stay for dinner at the coffee shop this Tuesday, but will have coffee and chat first. Stay for dinner too if you would like to. Address: Classic Cinemas, 9 Gordon St, Elsternwick. Please contact **Mary** if you would like to join the group.

brimary@iprimus.com.au

The **PORT PHILLIP COMMUNITY GROUP** is offering a new course, **Financial Wellbeing for Women**. This course is aimed at assisting vulnerable women become more confident with managing their cont.....