

Remember that we still have to keep Covid-Safe

When you arrive, it is important to either scan the QR code or write your name and contact details in the book provide.

Please remember to physical distance

Wearing of masks when singing is optional

Use the hand sanitiser provided

Please do not come if you are feeling unwell

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	18 April	25 April ANZAC DAY	2 May	9 May	16 May
Worship	David	David	David	David	David
Assistance	Mary	Roma	Melissa	Randall	Wendy
Welcome at door	Randall	Melisaa	Roma	Mary	Louise
Flowers	Roma	Desleigh	Mary	Roma	Louise
Coffee	Roma	Darren	Mary	Louise	Maureen
Rubbish collection	Randall	Melissa	Darren	Roma	Randall

Church

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

Engagement Hub

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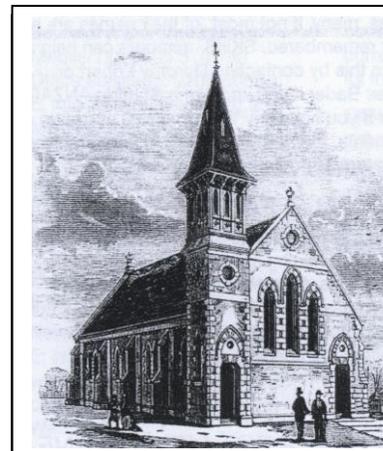
VISION STATEMENT:

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 12

Sunday, 18th April 2021

EASTER 3

A warm welcome to everyone today. David will be conducting the service this morning. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

Bible Readings: Acts 4: 23 – 31 pg 719 *The Inclusive Bible*

From David: The famous ‘Pub Test’

I’ve been thinking lately about the concept of passing or failing the ‘pub test’.

The phrase has been used quite a bit in the news and it’s one of those phrases that has slipped into popular political jargon, ranging across topics as far afield as sexual abuse in an MP’s office, the purchase of Cartier watches as gifts for executives, and the ‘pork-barrelling’ of government funds. ‘Pork-barrelling’ itself dates back to the early 1700’s when slave owners would favour some slave groups with more barrels of salted pork. But I digress – sort of.

‘It fails the Pub Test’ bursts forth from the floor of Parliament House, as if it is some meaningful yardstick by which to measure the opinions of ordinary Australians (whoever **they** are?). Or, for that matter, it represents some widely understood indicator of whether most members of the general public approve or disapprove of certain events in the lives of public figures or political activity.

However, underpinning this piece of political jargon is the myth that someone somewhere has actually conducted a pub test, whether in the Stumbling Rook in Campbellfield or the Athenaeum Club in Collins St. The truth is, hardly any pub tests are ever conducted anywhere. Cont...

Cont..... In reality it's a form of political 'speak' designed to re-direct or influence rather than reflect public opinion. We would benefit greatly by paying even closer attention to what is going on whenever we hear it being used. In many ways it's a 'red herring'.

Now there's another strange phrase going back centuries. Funny how our language is full of such concepts. 'Red herring' was first used back in 1686 in a British gentlemen's magazine. It related to fox hunting. The article described a way of prolonging the fox hunt by dragging a dead cat across the trail and masking the scent of the fox and thus confusing the hounds. Some friends of mine back in Suffolk, decades ago, when protesting against fox-hunting would do something similar to disrupt the hunt – not with dead cats I should add. The article also suggested that if no dead cats were available, a red herring would do just as well. Herrings turn red during the curing process and give off an absolutely awful smell.

What has all this got to do with Christianity?

A lot of theological perspectives and doctrines are a lot like red herrings and I suspect a good number of them would not pass the infamous 'pub test'.

Actually, that would make for an interesting piece of research. **I suspect hardly any would survive that test, except perhaps that Jesus was a courageous man of faith who died for the sake of justice. I reckon that one might just get through.**
Shalom. David

Songs/Hymns:

TiS 156 Morning has broken

TiS 595 O Jesus I have promised

God's spirit is in my heart.

God of grace. (tune Edelweis)

NOTICES:

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

After a short break over Easter, the study group starts up again this coming Wednesday evening 21st April from 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

As promised, we will spend some time thinking about and discussing the **concept of Resurrection in the 21st Century** and look at it from a progressive Christian perspective.

If you are not already included on the bible study list for these intellectually stimulating studies, let David know via email and he will add you to the invitation list. saints163@bigpond.com



The PCNV is resuming FACE TO FACE monthly meetings!

You are invited to JESUS & THE EMPOWERING INFLUENCE OF FRIENDSHIP

Why Gracious Living is More Important than Right Belief

**with Rev John Smith
NEXT SUNDAY April 25, 2021
3:00pm - 5:00 pm @**

Ewing Memorial Centre of
Stonnington Uniting Church
Corner of Burke Road & Coppin
Street, Malvern East

**Online access to PCNV meetings
will continue. Feel free to invite
other interested friends**
(pcnvictoria.org.au)

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE

Over recent weeks we have been experimenting with the most effective way of sharing the reflection/ homily/sermon part of our weekly gatherings. We have abandoned the idea of video and settled upon an audio recording. This will be uploaded to the website each week, with a bit of context added to enhance the recording experience eg, readings, theme, title.
www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS and JEWS (VIC) The Jewish-Christian Relations' Team at the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion will be hosting an event on **The Characters called 'The Jews' in John's Gospel** by Professor Mary Coloe pbvm.

It will take place this **Thursday 22 April, 4.30pm – 6.00pm, via Zoom.**
To register, email:
sionsecretary.au@gmail.com - a link will then be provided.

SACREDEDGE - 'MINI-FESTIVAL': Saturday 1 May | ***QUEENSCLIFFE***

11am Celebrate World Labyrinth Day, experience the Ocean Labyrinth in the Park, with Sue Beeton and Christina Rowntree.

1.30pm Kerryn Fields in Concert: "A joyous presence"

3pm Damon Gameau's renowned and inspiring documentary film "2040"

**Save the date:
Sacrededge Festival - 3-5 September 2021**

UNITINGWORLD

<https://unitingworld.org.au/>
Devastating flash floods and landslides have killed at least 113 people in Timor-Leste (East Timor), West Timor and Flores since the Easter weekend. Officials expect the death toll to rise as there are still dozens of people missing. Our partners are responding. Please click here to donate to our emergency appeal today.

***FOR YOUR DIARY*, Church AGM Sunday May 23rd** starting with breakfast. Reports need to reach David no later than **May 9th**.

It is expected that 163 CONVERSATIONS will be back in **May. More information to come.**

Please keep SATURDAY JULY 10TH free for a church dinner 🍷