

Covid-related space restrictions will limit numbers to 80 guests, so **RSVPs are essential: T: 9699 8804 or E: rosemary.rule@gmail.com**

SUSTAINABLE LIVING ONLINE EVENTS:

The City of Port Phillip will be hosting a range of online events in May. Visit <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/sustainable-living-online-events-this-month>.

WEBSITE If you are unable to attend church or want to refresh your memory of most of the Sunday services, then check out the website for the audio recordings; www.stkildaunitingchurch.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	16 May	23 May AGM	30 May	6 June	13 June
<i>Worship</i>	David	David	David	David	David
<i>Assistance</i>	Wendy	Roma	Mary	Randall	Melissa
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Louise	Melissa	Maureen	Louise	Darren
<i>Flowers</i>	Louise	Maureen	Deb	Roma	Mary
<i>Coffee</i>	Maureen	Darren	Roma	Louise	Mary
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Randall	Darren	Roma	Roma	Randall

Church

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

Engagement Hub

101 Carlisle St.

St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

Minister: Rev. David Pargeter

Email: saints163@bigpond.com

PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.

Ph: 0412 334 334

www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au

Church phone no.

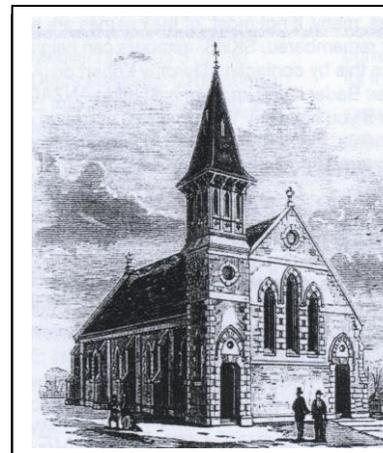
0458 417 708

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
Contributions to the content are also welcomed.



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 56 Issue 16

Sunday, 16th May 2021

EASTER 7

A warm welcome to everyone today. Rev David Pargeter has prepared the service but most likely it will be taken by a few church members. David is having his Covid -19 vaccination this weekend and in case there is an adverse reaction he has handed over the reins. Please join us afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

READING: John 5: 1 – 16 pg.701 *The Inclusive Bible*

FROM DAVID: Pigeons everywhere

During COVID 2020, the building in which the Church gathers each Sunday underwent a fair bit of repair work. The ‘unstable’ bell tower was completely re-built, and the roof has been completely re-slatted in accordance with Heritage expectations.

It certainly all looks very nice now, but the congregation has never been very big on pouring money into ‘worship’ type edifices – which is why we invested so much into restoring the ‘Drop In’ and creating a better and safer place for participants. A place that could feel like home. Where people could hear the sound of their own name on someone else’s lips. Where people could find a welcome, something to eat and things to do. Hopefully, it won’t be too long before the doors are thrown open and community-life can begin again.

The other morning, I was sitting on the bench out the front, beside the patch of lawn, with the sun warming my face, drinking my coffee. I shut my eyes and just bathed in the soft warmth of an autumn day. My empty muffin bag was on the bench beside me, and I could hear the unmistakable sound of a bird pecking at it.

Cont.....

Cont..... I didn't move but opened my eyes to watch a silver blue pigeon with a beautiful purple neck bravely but cautiously picking up crumbs while others stood around looking up at the bench. Clearly, not quite as brave as the one less than a foot from my hip. Then I started taking in the full 'vision' of what was unfolding on the lawn in front of and around me.

There were about 50 birds. Mostly pigeons of all colours and sizes. A couple of Maggies were striding around like they owned the place. A few sparrows darted away and back again several times. You know what sparrows are like – never in one place for very long. Always looking for opportunity. A couple of Noisy Mina's kept diving down from the banksia tree. They can be very disruptive. But a couple of things really held my attention. A good number of the birds, and not just pigeons, were injured in some way. Missing a leg or a claw. A bent wing. A crooked beak. A damaged eye. Urban life can be rough – clearly.

But they were all getting along fine. No squabbling like you see among seagulls. All taking advantage of a few crumbs and other things left on the lawn by previous 'sitters on the bench' or passers-by. Not much nourishment though in fag ends, cork-filters, plastic tubs and beer cans.

I'd not seen so many pigeons on the ground before and then it dawned on me. Our renovations had effectively removed their nesting and roosting

places. The area was their 'local community', they knew the place but we had inadvertently left them homeless.

Can't do much about homeless birds (they are pretty good at finding new homes) but I am so glad that the Engagement Hub will be opening again soon. Many participants have stayed in touch with staff and each other during a very challenging year. No doubt, others will start to come 'home' now and find again what COVID took away – a place of welcome, warmth and awful coffee.

Shalom. David

Songs/Hymns:

TiS 418 She sits like a bird

TiS 699 A New Commandment

TiS 414 There's a spirit in the air

TiS 650 Brother, sister let me serve you

NOTICES:

BIBLE STUDY (via ZOOM).
Wednesdays: 7.30 - 8.30 pm

In our 'study' of God as Spirit, we are looking at how people of faith (Hebrew and Christian) described the Spirit over the past 3000 years. Ancient imagery used to describe that which can't be described.

In week 1 we looked at the Hebrew understanding of Spirit. Last week, session 2, we looked at how the Apostle

Paul talked about the Spirit in the earliest pieces of writing we have – 1 Thessalonians and Galatians. Letters to two fledgling communities in the process of leaving the synagogues and forming communities around the Jesus story. **This coming Wednesday, we will look at how the Spirit is written about in reference to the life of Jesus as presented to us in the Gospels**

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



The PCNV invites you to explore:
Politics, Concepts of Evil and Apocalyptic Insights
with Rev Dr Robyn Whitaker
NEXT SUNDAY MAY 23rd: 3pm to 5pm, Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church, cnr Burke Rd., & Coppin St., Malvern East. This meeting will also be live streamed to the PCNV YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvWs9chH1eg>
Or check the PCNV website.

CHURCH AGM NEXT Sunday May 23rd starting with breakfast at 9am. **Please come and join in the conversation.**

.CHURCH DINNER SATURDAY JULY 10TH 6.30pm This will be will be at Ruth and Mark's house.  More information closer to the time



UNITING WINTER SHARE

APPEAL As winter approaches, the recent reduction in the JobSeeker payment, combined with the end of JobKeeper, will see more people slipping into crisis. **The Uniting Winter Share Appeal is a way of helping vulnerable people.**

To donate:

<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/appeal>

CITIZENS FOR RECONCILIATION PORT PHILLIP: SORRY DAY

Members and friends are invited to lunch to commemorate **National Sorry Day on Wednesday 26 May at 12.30pm.** The venue is the hall at St Peter & Paul's Church, 377 Dorcas Street on the corner with Montague St, South Melbourne – enter on Montague St through the courtyard and the hall is to the right.

There will be an official **Welcome to Country** Guests will include Elders, friends, community members and councillors, Boxed lunches and soft drinks will be provided, plus there will be some terrific door prizes. PTO