

**5 LENTEN STUDIES** Thursdays 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April: 7 pm to 8.30pm at the church: *Dreaming our way to Easter*. Dreams play a very important part in all the stories of the great faith traditions. Within Judaism and Christianity for example, dreams have shaped the course of history. In many ways, dreams represent what Celtic Christianity refer to as *thin places*: those moments, experiences or locations where the material and the mystical become one. we will take a look at the place of dreams and dreaming in spiritual life. The Lenten program will be led by Rev David Pargeter and Rev Dr Robert Hoskin.

*We respectfully acknowledge the Yalukit Willam 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	10 February	17 February	24 February	3 March
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	David Andrej	David Andrej	David Janet/Brian	David Mary
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Janet/Brian	Roma	Louise	Roma
<i>Flowers</i>	Maureen	Petra	Deb	Roma
<i>Coffee</i>	Janet/Brian	Mark/Ruth	Louise	Roma
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Janet/Brian	Roma	Darren/ Melissa	Andrej

**Church**

Corner Chapel & Carlisle Sts  
St Kilda 3182. Ph:

**Engagement Hub**

101 Carlisle St.  
St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

**Minister:** Rev. David Pargeter

Email: [saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)

PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.

Ph: 0412 334 334

[www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au)

**Church phone no.**

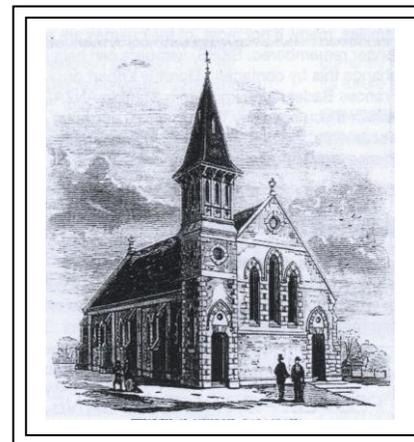
**0458 417 708**

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



**St Kilda Uniting Church  
Parish Mission  
NEWSLETTER  
Volume 54, Issue 3  
Sunday, 10 February 2019**

You are most welcome to our worship service. Rev. David Pargeter will lead our service today – the theme for February being *humour*. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation

**Bible Reading: John 8: 1 – 11. Pg.1181 Good News Bible**

**From David:**

The idea of a punch-line in comedy is to take the listener by surprise. Last Sunday I talked about Jesus using the typical 3-part joke structure with some of his parables. The eye of the needle parable for example. The setting of the ‘story’, the ‘story’ itself and the punch-line. Here’s an example of the structure at work:

*A barber is sitting in her shop when a priest enters. “Can I have a haircut?” the priest asks. “Of course” says the barber. The barber than gives the priest a haircut. When the barber has finished, the priest asks “How much do I owe you?” “Nothing,” replies the barber. “For you are a holy man”. The priest leaves.*

*The next morning, when the barber opens her shop, she finds a bag with one hundred gold coins in it. A short while later, an Imam enters the shop. “Can I have a haircut?” he asks. “Of course” says the barber, who gives the Imam a haircut. When the barber has finished, the Imam asks “How much do I owe you?” “Nothing” replies the barber. “For you are a holy man”. The Imam leaves.*

*The next morning, when the barber opens her shop, she finds a bag with a hundred gold coins in it. A bit later, a rabbi walks in the door. “Can I have a haircut?” the rabbi asks. “Of course” says the barber, who gives the rabbi a haircut. When the haircut is finished, the rabbi asks “How much do I owe you?” “Nothing” replies the barber “for you are a holy man”. The rabbi leaves. The next morning, when the barber opens her shop, she finds a hundred rabbis.*

PTO

Now, why is that funny? Some might say it is anti - semitic because it taps into an erroneous stereotype. Others might smile at the idea of a priest leaving a 100 gold coins; not likely! And, that the idea of 100 holy men queueing for a haircut is the more likely outcome; miserly mob.

**Another question is:** did the priest tell the Imam, who then told the rabbi about a free haircut? Or, is this a parable about interfaith relationships? Hang on, surely it's just a joke!

But the point is that the joke structure sets up both the expected and the unexpected outcome, depending upon our own experiences and prejudices. The same is true for the parable.

**Jesus used this structure to great effect.** Take the story of the good Samaritan, it's not all that different to the barber shop joke. It's designed to make you think. It turns the expected and the unexpected upside down. It invites us to place ourselves inside the story and to see ourselves within it, and then ask ourselves certain questions: What would you do after being given a free haircut? What would you do on the Jericho road?

David

## SONGS

### **God's spirit is in my heart**

God's spirit is in our heart  
S(H)e has called us and set us apart  
This is what we have to do  
What we have to do

*God sends us to be the good news to the poor*

*Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more*

*Tell blind people that they can see,*

*And set the downtrodden free*

*And go tell everyone*

*The news that the kingdom of God has come*

*And go tell everyone*

*The news that God's Kingdom has come.*

Life in the world can be sad  
It's a struggle sometimes to feel glad  
Walking that old extra mile  
That old extra mile. *Chorus*

Laughter is what we all need  
A giggle is only a seed  
A grin is barely enough  
The world's just too tough. *Chorus*

Words: Alan Dale/Hubert Richards  
Tune: Hubert Richards – arr. Keith Stent

### **Give to us Laughter. Tune: TiS 457**

We lack the gift of laughter;  
Faith sits all pale and glum,  
Hope dozes on a rafter,  
and Love is stricken dumb  
Come, Christ, into our drabness,  
tell us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.

We know the trick of tumbling,  
red nose and redder face;  
by virtues of our bumbling  
ours is the jester's case.  
Come, Christ, come down immortal,  
teach us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.

You joined our sad profession,  
made good our foolishness,  
brought clowning into fashion,  
put on our joker's dress.  
Come, Christ, come holy laughter,  
to share that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.

Upon a foolish cross, Lord,  
you hung to make us mirth;  
but there you conquered loss, Lord,  
old death became new birth.  
Come everlasting joy, Christ,  
confirm that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.

Colin Gibson, Words © Hope Publishing Company,

### **Give us Laughter (Tune Slane TiS 547)**

Give to us laughter,  
O Source of our life.  
Laughter can banish  
so much of our strife!  
Laughter and love  
give us wholeness and health.  
Laughter and love  
are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter  
as sign of deep joy;  
let us in laughing  
find Christian employ,  
joining with stars  
and with bright northern lights,  
laughing and praising  
and sharing delights.

Even in sorrow  
and hours of grief,  
laughter with tears  
brings us healing relief!

God, give us laughter,  
and God, give us peace,  
joy of your promise  
among us increase.  
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## Notices:

### **163 TABLE CONVERSATIONS**

**This Tuesday 12 February 6.15 pm for a 6.30 pm start. Speaker:** Allan Snashall **Specialty subject: Swing Dancing.** If you're game - there will be a chance to 'have a go' ! A great way to get our conversations going for 2019. **Please RSVP** to Janet: [janetsnashall@gmail.com](mailto:janetsnashall@gmail.com)  
0417 670 132. BYO own drinks to share  
Donations appreciated.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Wednesday 7pm March 6<sup>th</sup>** at the church. **Ash Wednesday** is a relatively recent addition to the faith life of the Christian community – about 1000 years ago. Ash is used symbolically to remind us of our mortality, and thus Lent begins: an inward spiritual journey of self-examination.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Thursday before Good Friday 7pm April 18<sup>th</sup>** at the church.

A candle-lit simple meal allowing us to move gently from light to darkness. A gathering of 'friends' participating in a chaburah meal - a Jewish festive meal usually shared each week before Passover. This meal most probably represents the origin of '**the Lord's supper**'