

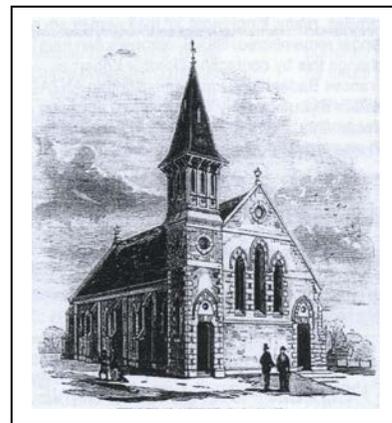
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Desleigh Kent is usually the editor and distributor of the Newsletter but while she is away, Rob Hess will take over for 16 and 23 June. Contact him at Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au if you have material for the newsletter.

Date	16 June	23 June	30 June	07 July
Worship Assistance	David Randall	David Roma	David Desleigh	David Randall
Welcome at door	Maureen	Louise	Mary	Louise
Flowers	Deb	Petra	Mary	Roma
Coffee	Mark/Ruth	Louise	Mary	Louise
Rubbish collection	Andrej	Darren/Melissa	Randall	Darren/Melissa

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Engagement Hub
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 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 usually the editor and distributor of the Newsletter but while she is away. 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 54, Issue 17
 Sunday, 16 June 2019**

You are most welcome to our service this morning. The Rev. David Pargeter will lead our worship. Please join us afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

Bible Reading: Leviticus 19: 33-34; Matthew 25: 31-46

Refugee Week

Of all the topics that qualify for some dedicated attention the plight of refugees is possibly the easiest to connect with yet the most difficult on which to shift public opinion.

Since the Tampa incident in 2001 the Lowy institute has been tracking public opinion on how many Australians feel threatened by large numbers of immigrants and refugees coming to Australia. 40% felt threatened in 2018. In 2009, it was 39%. Interestingly though, among eleven possible threats, it ranked third last in 2018; fourth last of fourteen in 2009; third last of twelve in 2008; and third last of thirteen in 2006.

Personally, I do not understand what the threat is or what the fear relates to, and the only 'reason' I've heard expressed in the media relates to terrorism. But it's a fear that cannot be substantiated with facts. And facts are important. Because unfounded fear gives birth to all sorts of unfounded beliefs about people and circumstances, and fosters indifference.

[Continued from page 1 ...]

But it only takes just a little bit of reading to find out why millions of people around the world are trying to find somewhere else to live where they can feel safe and free from persecution and discrimination.

That's why refugee week is easy to connect with – what would you do if you lived in a country where you were 'hunted' because you followed a particular religion, or spoke a particular dialect, or had a particular ethnic identity, or belonged to a particular tribe, or were politically opposed to a dictatorship?

I'll leave you to answer that question for yourself.

Within our faith tradition showing hospitality to the stranger seeking refuge is likened to 'entertaining angels unawares'. One of our better traditions me thinks. The readings below provide some insight into the importance of this topic for our global and our spiritual lives.

Shalom.

David

HOMELESS MEMORIAL – for remembering those who have died whilst homeless, is on **Thursday, 20 June 2019, from 4.30 pm until 7.30**

pm at the Peanut Farm corner of Chaucer St and Shakespeare Grove St Kilda (next to VegOut).

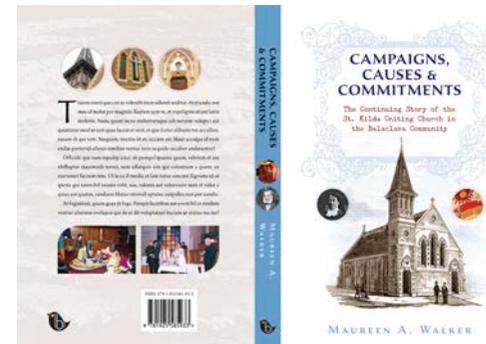
READING GROUP The next **Reading and Discussion Group is on Thursday July 4th 7.30pm at Mary and Brian's**. If you would like some information from the last meeting on *Heretics and Heresies* please speak to David. **All welcome.**

From Dr Sureka Goringe National Director **UnitingWorld**: Your tax-deductible donation, no matter how big or small, can save lives by giving people access to clean water and choices about good health and sanitation. *As a partner of the Australian Government, UnitingWorld can access funding for certain projects to help us reach more people. In order to receive Australian Aid funding, we are required to contribute \$1 for every \$5 we can access. That means your gift goes up to six times further!* PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235: 1800 998 122.

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.

CHURCH HISTORY: Just a reminder that copies of Maureen's book on the history of the church are still available for sale. See Maureen for details.



ADVANCE NOTICE – CHURCH CAMP: 25 October 2019 - 27 October 2019. Images from the 2014 Church Camp are reproduced below.



Images from the 2010 Church Camp are reproduced below.

