

Film screening of **2040** This is a hybrid feature documentary, which explores what the future could look like if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve. **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**, St John's Uniting Church (Social Justice Hub) 567 Glen Huntly Rd Elsternwick. \$10 at the door – supper provided

**REMINDER: Church gathering at Merricks for the weekend of 15/16/17 November. All welcome**

*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	15 September	22 September	29 September	6 October
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	David P Mary	David P Randall	David Wendy	Robert H Melissa
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Roma	Mary	Maureen	Louise
<i>Flowers</i>	Roma	Petra	Desleigh	Mary
<i>Coffee</i>	Andrej/ Petra	Mary	Maureen	Louise
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Roma	Mary	Darren/ Melissa	Mary

**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](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**

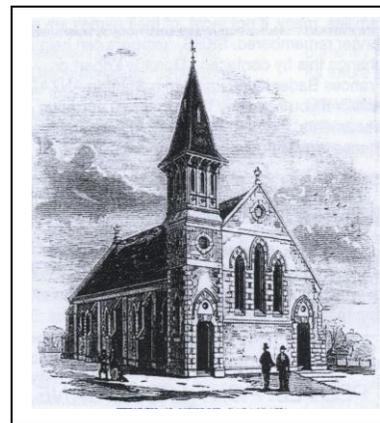
**VISION STATEMENT:**

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 30**

**Sunday, 15 September 2019**

**Pentecost 14**

**You are all most welcome to our service this morning. Rev. David Pargeter will lead our worship. Please stay afterwards for lunch/tea/coffee and conversation.**

**Bible Readings: Matthew 20: 1 – 16 pg. 657 *The Inclusive Bible***

**From David:** One of the interesting things about talk-back radio shows is that you get a pretty good glimpse of the kind of community that we live in.

The other morning, *Freedom of Speech* came up and I was surprised by just how many people rang in (all male by the way), who felt it was important for the new legislation to allow people to speak their mind without any consequences. When pushed, they revealed that what they really wanted was the right to abuse and offend someone because of their ethnicity or their religion – without constraint.

I quite literally felt sick at the end of the segment. It was like all the progress I thought we had made over the past 4 decades had somehow just evaporated. One caller said that while he didn't agree with spitting on someone ('that's violence'), he thought it was perfectly fine to tell someone to 'go back to where you came from'. Echoes of Trump.

This *Freedom of Speech* debate is really tearing at my soul. It's like the world has been here before but can't remember. Freedom is an important concept for which many of my /our ancestors died during WW2. **But Freedom doesn't stand alone; it always comes with an awesome responsibility to exercise it thoughtfully and carefully. Freedom and responsibility are like the wings of a bird – it needs both to fly.**

**PTO**

[Continued from page 1 ...]

My relatives didn't die so that I might have the freedom to speak or to vilify others. They died because Hitler's 'Third Empire' (Third Reich) was using speech to create an 'us' and 'them' kind of world; with 'them' being vilified, terrorised and eventually removed from existence. My relatives and thousands of others died to stop the spread of that brand of 'freedom'; so that a 'Third Empire' of this particular kind would not prevail.

I arrived at the Drop -In shortly after the talk-back segment. I was telling a participant about it and he told me that he thought 'political correctness' had gone too far; that he should be free to say what he thinks – especially about immigration.

As thoughtfully as I could, I tried to remind him that he doesn't live in isolation – that he lives in community, and that 'PC' isn't about constraining speech but about constraining thoughtlessness and carelessness.

**It is an appeal for us to be constantly sensitive to the feelings and experiences of other people.** I talked to him, about how the Third Empire of Nazi Germany targeted people who suffered with a mental illness; that they were some of the first casualties of hate speech. He thought about that for a moment and said, "I didn't know that".

I'll leave you with this quote from Voltaire: *Tolerance has never provoked a civil war; intolerance has covered the Earth in carnage*

### **A Call to gather together in Faith**

**L:** Embracing all that is humble and good about life, we gather together to say: "This is who I am".

**All: And to say "this is who we are"**

**L:** We are a people longing for and working for the eruption of a new kind of world.

**All: A world in which no one is taken for granted.**

**L:** A world in which no-one misses out on the opportunity to have the fullest possible kind of life.

**All: A world where no-one is made to feel inferior or unwelcome.**

**L:** The kind of world that Jesus talked about and brought to life.

**All: We are a people of the Gospel story. May we also bring such a world to life.**

**L:** And all the people said:

**All: Amen. Amen. Amen**

### **HYMNS/ SONGS.**

**TiS 474: Gather us in.**

**TiS 614: O God of Love**

**TiS 621: O God of every nation. (tune 457)**

### **NOTICES:**

**OUR CHURCH** is hosting a Fringe Festival play – the last performance – of *What's Your Gamble?* **this Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 6 – 7pm.** Five people speak up and act out their personal lived experience narratives of gambling harm. Engaging, emotional, confronting collage of personal stories, told with courage and humour. **The cast are accidental activists, appealing to audiences to view gambling as something that affects us all.**

**\*They are very kindly offering our church community free admission.**

**Next Tuesday Church Council will meet. Please contact CC members if you have concerns that you would like discussed.**

**CALL to ACTION.** UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer has urged all people of the Uniting Church to sign up to **GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE** as Pacific nations have declared a "climate crisis". She has asked us also to take part in the **GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE next Friday 20 September . at Treasury Gardens 2pm.** If you would like to join other Uniting Church people please meet at the **Gordon Fountain, cnr Spring and Macarthur Streets at 1.45 pm. There will be an interfaith service for the climate strike at Wesley Church (in Nicholas Hall), 148 Lonsdale St at 12.30 pm.**

**Next Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September for INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE** St Kilda will hold a **peace gathering 2 – 3.45pm** at Acland Plaza. Then at 3.45 there will be a **Peace Walk** in Acland St. At 4pm the St Kilda Peace Art Exhibition will be opened at Leroy's Espresso, Acland St (sponsored by Planetary Healing Artists and City of Port Phillip)

**Next Sunday 22 September 2.30 - 4pm. DIALOGUE on FREEDOM of RELIGION** sponsored by the Council of Christians and Jews. Rev Dr Rene Erwich and Rabbi Fred Morgan will draw on their rich historical experience to inform our current dilemmas. Kew Baptist Church, 10 Highbury Grove Kew.

### **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**

Nearby **Holy Trinity Church** is again arranging a **Community Christmas Tree Festival** and we have been invited to participate. Although Maureen has had some very preliminary discussions with our new Zimbabwean friends, ideas are most welcome.

**Dates and Times:** 5/6 December 10.00 – 7.00; 7 December 10.00 – 4.00; 8 December (Sunday) 12.00 noon – 4-00 followed by Carols among the Trees. **Admission:** Children free, Adults by gold coin donation

**Concert:** Elwood Community Choir and friends, Friday 6