

CAROL SERVICE at the church will be on **Sunday 22nd December** at **6.30pm**. **CHRISTMAS DAY** service will be at **9.30am**.

The **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** at Holy Trinity Balaclava will be held from 5th to 8th December.

Thursday and Friday 10am to 7pm. **Friday night** will be a concert at 7pm with Elwood Community Choir and Friends – supper – gold coin donation.

Saturday 10 am to 4pm **Sunday** 12md to 4pm followed by **Carols amongst the Trees**.

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	24 November	1 December	8 December	15 December
<i>Worship</i>	David Roma	David Mary	David Andrej	David Melissa
<i>Assistance</i>				
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Darren	Maureen	Janet	Louise
<i>Flowers</i>	Roma	Desleigh	Petra	Mary
<i>Coffee</i>	Melissa	Mark	Roma	Louise
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Randall	Roma	Brian	Darren

Church

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

Engagement Hub

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VISION STATEMENT:

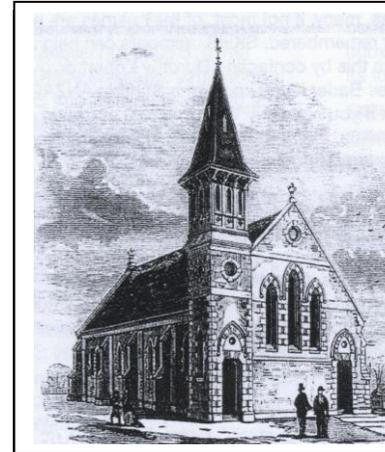
As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church Parish Mission strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

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 54, Issue 39

Sunday, 24 November 2019

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

Bible Readings: Luke 24: 13 – 35 pg. 696 *The Inclusive Bible*

From David: Scaffolds and Towers

Anyone walking past 163 Chapel St will notice that scaffolding has gone up and repairs to the tower will begin shortly. I want to invite you to think about this work as a metaphor.

Scaffolding doesn't actually support the tower; the tower supports the scaffolding. It wraps around it and enables people to access difficult areas and work on them - safely.

When discussing faith questions and progressive ideas about church and God, I often hear the phrase: we have to be careful we don't pull down the scaffolding! That we don't dismantle something that is supporting a person's faith journey; holding it together so-to-speak.

I understand the concern but posing questions and encouraging other perspectives isn't about attempting to dismantle or remove the scaffolding but rather urging people to use it. To climb it and from different vantage points, examine their faith more closely.

At his trial, the famous philosopher Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living". **Similarly, I would suggest that an unexamined faith is not worth having.**

[Continued from page 1 ...]

It is not unlike what is happening to the tower. It is only when you use the scaffolding to take a closer look at the structure itself that you can see what needs to be replaced or repaired. Faith foundations, like towers, can suffer from years of neglect. Decades and layers of pigeon poop have not helped very much!

We have for quite some time now been aware that the tower needed attention, but other concerns took priority. Now as a matter of public safety, it has to be completely renovated by lifting it up and replacing its base structure.

Similarly, we can put off close examination of the things upon which our faith has been established and developed, only to discover that the base structure is in need of major repairs. We discover that the faith we had as children or teenagers no longer connects with the realities of the world in which we find ourselves. Nor does it reflect 21st C understanding of history, science, psychology, sociology etc etc

Progressive Christianity isn't about pulling down the scaffolding but using it to have a closer look at the faith we have inherited and

determine whether it is helpful, relevant or life-sustaining. It can be.

Peace

David

HYMNS/ SONGS.

In the Bulb there is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

***In each child** there is a wisdom;
with each birth the world is blessed.
Fragile gifts arrive one morning,
like creation's treasured guests.
And within this newborn promise,
love and life are now combined,
In this song of God's own kingdom
there is hope for humankind.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in
our life, eternity,

In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

*(Natalie A Sleeth 1985). * This verse was added by David Pargeter to commemorate the baptism of Sinakilea Mefa Elizabeth Kailah. Nov. 2019*

TiS 706 Bless the Lord. Taize chant
for use during *prayers of thanksgiving*

The Emmaus Road: (Tune TiS 654)

Along this road, we often walk.
And make the time to stop and talk.
Along this road, we walk with friends.
A walk of faith that never ends.

And through the words of one
unknown
The seed of hope once more is sown.
A stranger speaks of faith-filled things
And in our hearts the prophet sings.

He says that death is not the end.
That he who died, will live again.
That God will have the final say;
despair and pain will fade away.

And with his words they lose their fear
For once again, their hope draws near.
In broken bread his life revealed.
Faith's broken dreams, at last are
healed.

With burning hearts they walk again
Back to the place where dreams can end.
And when they reach that Holy place
They meet again, their friends of faith.

David Pargeter (August 2019)

TiS 666 (new words)

We are walking the Emmaus Road X
4)

We are walking, oo

We are walking the Emmaus Road

We are walking, oo

We are walking the Emmaus Road

We are listening for the Word of God
(X 4)

Through the breaking of the bread
we see (X 4)

Hearts are burning with a living
hope (X 4)

NOTICES:

**TODAY the PROGRESSIVE
CHRISTIAN NETWORK OF
VICTORIA will meet: 3 to 4.40pm.**
The **speaker will be the author
Hugh Mackay**, talking about his
latest book ***Australia Reimagined:
Building a Culture of Compassion.***
Ewing Memorial Centre of
Stonnington Uniting Church cnr
Burke Rd and Coppin Sts. Malvern
East. All welcome. \$5 members/ \$7.

**TODAY The JEWISH CHRISTIAN
MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA (JCMA)** will spend an
afternoon **walking together in
friendship and goodwill** between a
church, synagogue and a mosque
starting at 1.15pm. Free, but book on
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/jcma-friendship-walk-24th-november-2019-tickets-67976909767>