

Port Melbourne Uniting Church 144 Bridge Street P.M. will have a **BLUE CHRISTMAS** gathering next Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. A space of quiet and reflection amidst the busyness.

**FOR YOUR DIARY:** February 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 the church's dinner (usually adults only) will be at Ruth and Mark's house in Elsternwick. More information to come. Keep the date free!

*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 December	22 December	22 December	25 December	
<b>Worship</b>	David Melissa	David Randall	Carol Service 6.30pm	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9.30am	
<b>Assistance</b>					
<b>Welcome at door</b>	Louise	Maureen	Roma /Janet	Maureen <b>Roma</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Mary	Roma			
<b>Coffee</b>	Louise	Maureen	Janet/ Brian. Roma		
<b>Rubbish collection</b>	Darren	Randall		Whoever is around!	

#### 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

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**Church phone no.**

**0458 417 708**

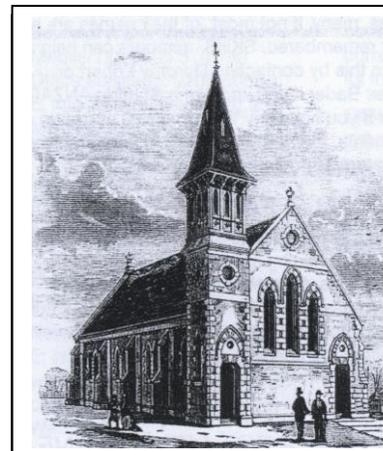
#### VISION STATEMENT:

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 42**

**Sunday, 15 December 2019**

**ADVENT 3**

**Welcome to you all to our service this morning. Rev. David Pargeter will lead us in worship. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee/lunch and conversation.**

**Reading 1. Extract from *The Overstory* by Richard Powers**

**Bible Reading: Matthew 11: 2 – 11 pg. 650 *The Inclusive Bible***

#### From David: Lord Let me See

**You probably won't know 'Harry'.** You might have seen him walking down either Chapel or Carlisle St. You might not have. Harry doesn't say very much. Keeps himself to himself. Most times he just stands in the doorway of an empty shop that's been available for lease for months.

He just kind of blends into the background; the shadows absorb his presence. There is an invisibility about him until he moves onto the foot path and into the light of day. I said you may have seen him walking, but really Harry doesn't walk - he shuffles. His feet barely leave the ground and you can hear the soles of his old trainers gently scraping the surface of the path. Harry seldom looks up. He focuses on the ground at a space about a metre in front of him. Even so, he is able to avoid bumping into people, bins or poles.

He has a humourless face that says more about sadness and struggle than abundant living. Forlorn is not a word we use much these days but forlorn is the word I would choose to describe Harry. Sad and abandoned.

PTO

[Continued from page 1 ...]

**Weeks ago I asked Harry if there was anything I could get for him.**

Harry just ignored me and carried on past the betting shop in Carlisle St. Harry in his world and me in mine. Our feet on the same pavement but we might just as well have been on different planets.

It's not the first time I have asked Harry if I could get anything for him. It's not the first time Harry has ignored me. I always say hello or good morning. I don't pry but I do ask different questions like 'anything you need', but the response is always the same.

I want to persist with offering assistance, but I ask myself why? What right do I have to keep intruding upon his space, his world, his life? What gives me the right to make assumptions about who Harry is or that he needs anything from me? Whose need am I meeting? But then the phrase: "whatsoever you do for the least in the world you do also for me", haunts me.

I've come to the conclusion that the very least I can do for 'Harry' (and perhaps the most) is to *see* him. To recognise and acknowledge his existence and his presence and not expect him to recognise mine.

David

***HYMNS/ SONGS:***

**Time is so much more than passing moments**

**Time** is so much more than passing moments slipping through our hands like falling rain.  
Help us God to use our time more wisely  
Opening our eyes to a world that's full of pain.

**Time** to share with loved ones and our neighbours  
Time to share with strangers on the street.  
Time to say hello and smell the roses  
Smiling at the world and the people that we meet.

**Time** to do those things that are life giving  
Simple things that lift our spirits high  
Things that keep our busy lives in balance  
Filling life with joy and with meaning every day

**Time** to work with you God on creation  
Caring for this place that we call home  
Time to reconcile and be forgiving  
Bringing hope and love to a world that needs re-birth.

(Words, David Pargeter. Tune: Always thought I would be an apostle)

**TiS: 681 verses 1,2,3 then 3,4,5**

**Search me O God**, and know my anxious heart.  
Behind me and before me,  
you lay your hand upon me.

**Where might I hide** to flee your tender touch?

No darkness or the ocean hides me from your devotion. You know my every need:

*You know my thoughts, my joy, my crying.*

*God, your wisdom ways surround me at my birth, my dying.*

**Woven** by you  
Deep in my mother's womb;  
That moment of conception you knew my life's direction.

**Search me, O God**  
And purify my ways  
O teach me love surpassing  
Guide me in all that's lasting  
**Chorus**

Words: leigh newton, based on psalm 139 Music: leigh Newton, based on Beethoven (La Pathetique 1993)

***NOTICES:***

**CAROL SERVICE** at the church will be **NEXT Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm. Bring family and friends - come and join the celebration!**

**CHRISTMAS DAY service will be at 9.30am.**

Our Christmas tree is back here in the church after the wonderful Festival at Holy Trinity. It is ready to receive gifts for ***The Engagement Hub (Drop – In)*** participants - socks – all adult sizes; undies (male and female) – M and L Wrap and identify the contents please.

***CHURCH COUNCIL met last Tuesday. Minutes are available on request.***

The **CLIMATE CHOIR** will be singing *carols against coal* on St Kilda beach near the pier at **5pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. All are welcome to sing along.

The **ELWOOD SYNAGOGUE** will be holding a public lighting of the first candle of **HANNUKAH** on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** at the Acland St Plaza 5-30 -7pm.

**SPACE2B'S 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION. 100 Paintings for Peace**, until Friday 31st January - 144 Chapel Street (across the road)

**CHRISTMAS BOWL - the Christmas appeal of ACT FOR PEACE** (the International aid agency of the National Council of Churches). Material available on front table. You can place your donation (clearly marked) in the offering plate, or make your donation online:  
[www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)