



Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 23 March 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 23 March

Portarlington

9.00am Pigdon Lay Team

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

Tuesday, 25 March

2.00pm Portarlington Lenten Study

Thursday, 27 March

9.30am Portarlington Combined Choir Practice

10.00am Drysdale Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

2.00pm Drysdale Lenten Study

Sunday, 30 March

Combined Bellarine Linked Congregations at Portarlington

10.15am Rev. Karen Eller

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday 23 March

Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Sunday 30 March

Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Theme Ideas from Ministry Matters

Repentance, a central theme of Lent, cannot be ignored in today's lessons. Jesus' words are clear: repent or perish. Isaiah's words, "Let the wicked forsake their ways," echo Christ's. Paul's writing gives a strong warning from Israel's history to the Corinthians and to us today: "God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down." But repentance is not merely a cessation of sin or a halting of that which is not pleasing in God's sight; it is more than that. Repentance also carries the idea of turning around in a new direction, of doing a one-eighty in your life. Isaiah invites us to embrace the abundant life that God offers us.

Prayer from Ministry Matters

Gracious and eternal God,
you call us into a new way of being,
and give us so many second chances in life.
May your love wash over us,
as we turn toward you
from our sinful ways.
Mould us as your people
in new and powerful ways,
that we may be true disciples
of your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Calling Singers

A combined choir is planned for our next combined worship service on Sunday March 30 at 10.15am at St Andrew's. Singers are warmly invited to join the St Andrew's choir on Thursdays 13, 20, 27 March, at 9.30am to rehearse. Please let Joy know (0406 307 433 or ianjoyporter@gmail.com) if you are coming so that music can be prepared for you.

Sunday Afternoons At 5

5pm concerts on Sundays during Lent at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, 136 Yarra St., Geelong. Join our performers after the concert for refreshments. Admission is free – no bookings required. Further details at <https://musicatthebasilica.org.au/music/>

Minister:

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Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop:

High Street DRYSDALE

Monday to Friday (11.00am – 4.00pm)

Saturday (10.00am – 12.30pm)

0490 452 325

Israeli and Palestinian Peace Groups - *JustAct* March 2025

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate ... Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that... So when Jesus says, "Love your enemies", He is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition: Rev Martin Luther King, 1969

Seeking a lasting peace between Palestine and Israel will come only from meeting the needs of all the people involved, not beating one group into terrified submission. The heartening news is that there are number of peace groups in these warring countries that are working hard for effective communication and just peace. These groups lack resources for their important work compared to those dedicated to ongoing killings and destruction, such as Hamas and the Netanyahu government.

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania provided \$5,000 to each of the **Wi'am**: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre and **Parents Circle – Families Forum**. If we also want to make a financial contribution to one the groups, we can do this through our Synod.

Synod lists the following peace groups:

Wi'am - a grassroots Christian-led civil society organization based in Bethlehem. It promotes non-violent resistance to the Israeli occupation. See <https://www.alaslah.org/>

Refuser Solidarity Network - includes and supports Israelis who have been imprisoned for refusing military service in opposition to the current war. See <https://www.refuser.org/>

Parents Circle – Families Forum - a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation of families who have lost an immediate family member to the current war. They help bereaved parents speak publicly for peace. See <https://www.theparentscircle.org/>

Peace Now - advocates for peace through the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. It has identified illegal Israeli settlements as one of the largest obstacles to peace and so works to stop illegal settlement activity. See <https://peacenow.org.il/en>

Standing Together - demands an end to the occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem and has a network of Israelis to protect Palestinians from violence in these places. See <https://www.standing-together.org/en>

Roots - a network of local Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank who work together to develop trust and end conflict.

See <https://www.friendsofroots.net/>

Women Wage Peace and Women of the Sun - an Israeli based women's organization that brings together Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze women who, together, are demanding diplomatic negotiation, with full representation of women, to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. See <https://www.womenwagepeace.org.il/en/>

Andrea Lindsay

PORTARLINGTON

Rosters

It's not too late to volunteer for one or more of our rostered duties – manager, pastoral carer, reader, prayers of the people, morning tea, for the months of April, May and June. To any new volunteers and to those who have volunteered already would you please message me with any dates that you know you will not be available. Phone: 0419355492 or email hughestwo@bigpond.com. Many thanks, Lorraine.

DRYSDALE

Pilgrimage



Saturday 5 April is your chance to join us as we walk 4.5 kms from Curlewis cliff top to the church. There will be stopping points along the way to join in and listen to the special liturgy being written

by our congregation. Starting time is 9.30am finishing at the church for lunch at about 12.00pm. Please add your name to the sheet in the foyer if you would like to take part. If walking that distance is a problem you can drive between each station.

Drysdale Family Support Foodbank

Thank you to Drysdale Uniting Church for their generous donation of pantry items this week. We appreciate each person who contributed.

Drysdale Family Support is currently accepting donations of much needed pantry items such as pasta, pasta sauce, flour (plain and SR), cereal, tinned vegetables, tinned soups, crackers, dry biscuits, toilet paper, personal hygiene items, noodles, tea and coffee.

If you are able to help, please drop items to Drysdale Community Church on Jetty Rd in Curlewis.

100% of items donated go directly to those in need in our local community.

Easter Stall



Our Easter stall is coming soon on Saturday 19 April. We invite members of the congregation to help with items to sell, with setup, selling and pack up. The normal stalls of

crafts, cakes & slices, jams & preserves, plants & books will be there.

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au, by Tuesday evening. Notices are generally repeated once, or twice if there is sufficient space. Please send them in ahead of the event or desired date and indicate in which section you would like your notice to appear.