



Uniting Church in Australia

Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Portarlington



Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 17 August 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 17 August

Portarlington (Guide Hall)

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller
Loose Change & Food Bank

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

Combined Refugee Action Group

3.00pm Sacred Heart College Chapel, Newtown

Tuesday, 19 August

2.00pm Bellarine Linked Worship team meeting,
Drysdale

Thursday, 21 August

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo
11.00am Arcare Worship, Rev. Karen Eller
7.00pm Church Council meeting

Friday, 22 August

9.30am Bellarine Link Justice & Mission meeting
Marg Manning's, 34 Batman St, Port.

Sunday, 24 August

Portarlington

9.00am Portarlington Lay Team, Manning

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

Combined Refugee Action Group

3.00pm St Peter's Anglican Church, Ocean Grove



LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday 17 August Pentecost 10

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-9
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Sunday 24 August Pentecost 11

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Theme from Ministry Matters

One of scripture's greatest assurances is that we are not alone. When we look to God with faith, we join millennia of those who believe in God's goodness, however bleak circumstances may be. While today's readings allude to oppression, exile and tribulation, we hear, especially in Hebrews 11, a call to persevering faith. Thankfully, when we feel least powerful, God blesses us with faith, which cannot be taken from us.

Prayers from Ministry Matters

Come, Holy Spirit.
Hear our prayers and songs of praise.
We join voices from ancient times that placed their trust in you in days of joy or pain.
Inspire us in this hour, that we may never surrender to despair.
Renew in us enduring faith, even as we join eternally in song.



Amen.

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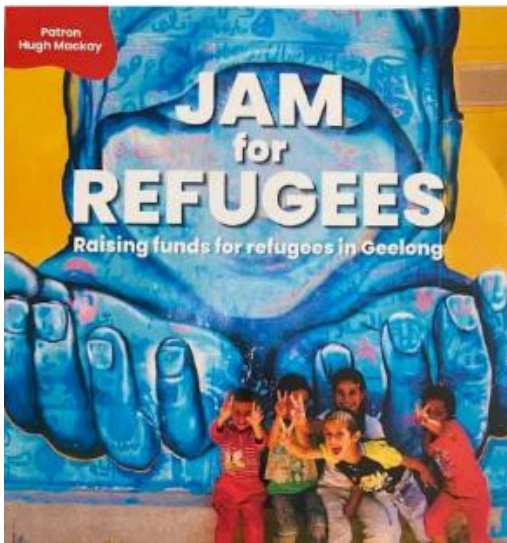
Drysdale Church Centre
High Street DRYSDALE
drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au
0490 452 325 (Office)
<http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop:
High Street DRYSDALE
Monday to Friday: 11.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday: 10.30am – 1.00pm

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Jam For Refugees

A series of musical fund raising events are being held, to raise money for CRAG, the Combined Refugee Action Group, Geelong. All tickets \$20.



3.00pm Sunday 17 August

Class of 1685 featuring Terry Norman, harpsichord.
Sacred Heart College Chapel
Aphrasia Street, Newtown

3.00pm Sunday 24 August

The Writer's Tale featuring Judy Rankin, author.
St Peters Anglican Church
35-37 Draper St, Ocean Grove

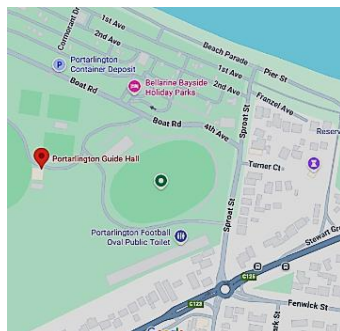
3.00pm Sunday 31 August

Salsa Dance by Geelong Salsa
Parks Hall, 87 Newcombe St, Portarlington

PORTARLINGTON

St Andrew's, temporary venue

The first Sunday worship at the Portarlington Guide Hall (located in the Recreation Reserve in Boat Rd) will be **Sunday, 17 August**.



Church Lunch

It's time for another Church Lunch and you're invited to join us at the Portarlington Golf Club at noon on Sun, 17 August.

Look forward to seeing you there,
Lorraine (0419 355 492)

Gaza Catastrophe – a report from an ICU doctor

When I entered Gaza the Israeli military had a rule: I was only allowed to bring in seven pounds of food. As I was weighing out protein bars, trying to get under the limit, I said to my husband: 'How sinister is this?' I'm a humanitarian aid worker. Why would there even be a limit on food? I've worked in many places with extreme hunger, but what's so jarring in this context is how cruel it is, how deliberate.

I was in Gaza for two months; there's no way to describe the horror of what's happening. And I say this as a paediatric ICU doctor who sees children die as part of my work. Among our own staff we have doctors and nurses who are trying to treat patients while hungry, exhausted themselves. They're living in tents. Some of them have lost fifteen, twenty members of their families. In the hospital there are kids maimed by airstrikes: missing arms, missing legs, third degree burns. Often there's not enough pain medication. But the children are not screaming about the pain, they're crying: 'I'm hungry! I'm hungry!'

I hate to only focus on the kids, because nobody should be starving. But the kids, it just haunts you in a different way. When my two months were finished, I didn't want to leave. It's a feeling I haven't experienced in nearly twenty years of humanitarian assignments. But I felt ashamed. Ashamed to leave my Palestinian colleagues, who were some of the most beautiful and compassionate people that I've ever met. I was ashamed as an American, as a human being, that we've been unable to stop something that is so clearly a genocide.

I remember when our bus pulled out of the buffer zone. Out the window on one side I could see Rafah, which was nothing but rubble. On the other side was lush, green Israel. When we exited the gate, the first thing I saw was a group of Israeli soldiers, sitting at a table, eating lunch. I've never felt so nauseous seeing a table full of food."

Aqsa Durrani is a paediatric doctor and board member of Doctors Without Borders USA,



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.