



Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 5 October 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 5 October

Portarlington

9.00am Rev Karen Eller, Portarlington Guide Hall
Holy Communion

Drysdale

10.30am Rev Karen Eller
Holy Communion
Loose Change and Foodbank

Tuesday, 7 October

10.00am Portarlington Church Council Meeting

Thursday, 9 October

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

Saturday, 11 October

8.00am Portarlington Community Breakfast
St. Patrick's Church, Portarlington

Sunday, 12 October

Portarlington

9.00am Drysdale Lay team - Wayne

Drysdale

10.30am Drysdale Lay team - Wayne

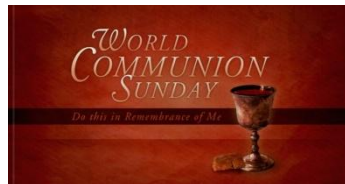
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday 5 October

Pentecost 17 Lamentations 1:1-6,
Lamentations 3:19-26 or
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Sunday 12 October

Pentecost 18 Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7
Psalm 66: 1-12
2 Timothy 2: 8-15
Luke 17: 11-19



Theme from Ministry Matters

Suffering and faith are at the heart today's readings for World Communion Sunday. In Lamentations, we hear the mourning of God's beloved, as they suffer the consequences of having betrayed their love for God and entrusted their lives to other gods.

In Psalm 137, we hear the enraged suffering of God's beloved, as they process their unspeakable losses and pledge a renewed allegiance to God in exile.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, we hear a paradoxical "no fear, no shame" invitation to suffering, for the sake of the gospel of Christ Jesus. To enter this suffering, Paul encourages Timothy to have faith in God and to entrust his life to God, as he has. Timothy is to trust the power of the Holy Spirit in him.

In Luke, the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, and he reminds them what God can do with even the little faith they have.

Prayer from Ministry Matters

Holy and Triune God,
your table transcends time and space.
As your disciples on World Communion Sunday,
we join our voices to the songs and prayers
offered to your name throughout the world.
Increase our faith and give us grace
to love and forgive one another,
as you have loved and forgiven us.
We remember all your beloved children
who suffer this day—
especially the victims and refugees of war.
We hear the echo of their broken lives in the songs of
lament in today's scriptures.
Help us bear witness to their suffering without fear.
Give us the courage to live in love with you, in you,
and for you.
For the sake of all your beloved children, we pray.
Amen.

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

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Housing for Victims of Family Violence – JustAct 21/09/2025:

While nursing her four-month-old baby one evening on the south coast of NSW, 'Elsa' called a family violence refuge hotline. It was her only opportunity to do so, as her abusive partner was out of the house. She was told that there was a ten-year waiting list for accommodation. Luckily, she could briefly couch surf with trusted friends before applying for a low-quality rental property. "If that had not happened, I may have had to go back to him".

Domestic and family violence is a form of oppression that breaks the human spirit, preys on people in their vulnerability and attacks a person's most basic human values of trust, love, hope and self-worth. In Australia, family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women. In Victoria, in 2022-2023, 54% of all women, young people and children who visited a Specialist Homelessness Service reported they had experienced family violence. A lack of housing for those fleeing family violence can force them to return to abusive and dangerous partners. Children, women, and young people in urgent need of housing as a result of family violence are waiting an average of 19.5 months to get into social housing. One in four survivors of family violence does not get even emergency accommodation.

There is an increasing use of motels as crisis accommodation for people fleeing family violence. This is a stop gap. Motels frequently lack cooking facilities and have nowhere for children to play and spend time outside their motel room. They fail to provide safety and stability in the longer term.

What You Can Do:

(see <https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Letter-writing-action-on-family-violence-and-housing-August-2025-1.pdf>)

Write or e-mails the Federal Minister for Housing - Minister for Homelessness and/or the Assistant Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence.

Express your concern at the lack of housing for people having to flee family violence and ask that the Australian Government fund the provision of 30,000 homes as social housing annually over the next 20 years.
Request that the Australian Government fund additional Special Family Violence Service staff so that these services can better assist people impacted by family violence to find safe and secure housing; and, double crisis accommodation places for people fleeing family violence to reduce (expensive) reliance on hotels.

Andrea Lindsay

Caring for God's Creation

You can change lives in West Papua!

In remote West Papua, families are facing a dangerous mix of poverty, malnutrition, and climate-driven disasters. Crops are failing, fish stocks shrinking, and natural resources are being depleted. Life is becoming harder every day. But there is hope.

Our partners at the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua (GKI-TP) are leading bold, locally driven solutions that bring people and nature back into balance. They are helping families plant climate-resilient food gardens, restore forests, start small businesses, and equipping women and young people to lead as conservation champions.

Your gift will help families put food on the table today, while protecting the forests and livelihoods they need for tomorrow.

Please give today at
<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/spring-appeal-2025>
and together we can help families overcome poverty in ways that also protect God's creation.

With hope,
Dr Sureka Goringe
National Director
UnitingWorld



Diary Date

Peace Camino 2025, Queenscliff
Sunday 9 November, 2025, at 12.00pm
Holy Trinity Parish is offering a Sunday afternoon Pilgrimage, walking 10km along the Bellarine Rail Trail from the Memorial Indigenous Gardens, Mannerim, to Holy Trinity Church, Queenscliff.

Walk with us on a journey of remembrance and renewal, along the Bellarine Rail Trail, once shadowed by wartime history, pilgrims gather in hope – towards peace, prayer and community.

Email: queenscliffpeacecamino@gmail.com

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.