



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 23 November 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 23 November

Portarlington

9.00am Portarlington Lay team - Ian and Joy.

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

Tuesday, 25 November

2.00pm Linked worship committee meeting

Wednesday, 26 November

12.00 noon Portarlington Advent Study

Thursday, 27 November

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

Sunday, 30 November

Portarlington & Drysdale

10.15am Rev. Karen Eller
Combined Linked service at Drysdale

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday 23 November

Christ the King or Reign of Christ	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
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Sunday 30 November

Advent 1	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44
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Theme from Ministry Matters

Reign of Christ

There are many things in the world that compete for our commitment.

Each – be it a political affiliation, a job, a hobby or even a nationality – desires for us to recognise its power above all others. It takes intentionality to live a life which is committed to God and God's ways of peace, justice, mercy, and love above all else.

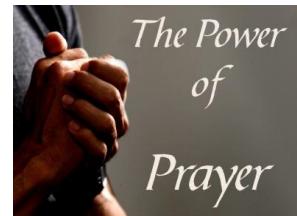
But even amid competing allegiances, the scriptures today remind us that God's reign has been, is, and will be present. Further, it is a way to which we can genuinely commit our lives and bring life to the world.

Prayer from Seasons of the Spirit

Holy God,
You are the Healer of our hearts,
the Shepherd of our Souls,
the Source of our lives,
and the eternal Rhythm of creation.

Our world competes for our attention. It asks for us to recognise it as the power over each day,
Open our eyes to see how the grace and love of your reign is the grace and love which gives truly abundant life and is that to which we should aspire.

Amen.

**Minister: Office**

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<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

Portarlington Uniting Church

(St. Andrew's)

portarlingtonuc@gmail.com

Newcombe St PORTARLINGTON

<https://portarlingtonunitingchurch.org.au>

ALL CONGREGATIONS

The Christmas Bowl and Act for Peace

A message about The Christmas Bowl and Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Today is Reign of Christ Sunday — a day when we're reminded that Christ's kingdom is a kingdom of justice, compassion, and hope.

The Christmas Bowl is one of the ways the Church in Australia has lived out that kingdom for 76 years.

It began in 1949 with Rev. Frank Byatt, a young methodist minister in Victoria who placed an empty bowl on his Christmas table as a reminder of those who had lost everything in the war. He invited his congregation to do the same, and from that simple act, a movement of generosity grew, and year after year churches have continued to add their gifts, prayers, and compassion to this shared Bowl.

When we take part in the Christmas Bowl, we're joining a tradition that stretches across generations — part of a global story of hope that continues to change lives today.

This year we continue that legacy. Funds raised through the Christmas Bowl this year will be helping people

- In **Ethiopia**, where refugees are learning new skills and starting small businesses
- In **Jordan**, where Syrian and Palestinian refugees are building futures through vocational training and financial literacy programs
- In **Zimbabwe and Indonesia**, where communities are preparing for disasters and growing food for their families
- In **Pakistan**, where girls and women are breaking the cycle of poverty through access to education
- And in **Gaza**, where your support is helping provide urgent healthcare, hygiene kits, clean water and more.

Each gift to the Christmas Bowl is a living expression of peace. Not just the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice, compassion and hope.

Thank you for being part of the story God is writing through the Christmas Bowl.

You can check out more information at
<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au>

Joy Porter



Caring for God's Creation

What happens to my blister packs?

Many congratulations to St Andrew's folk who continue to collect blister packs, as well as plastic lids, batteries and printer cartridges.

While we worship at the Guide Hall, buckets are available to receive collections on the third Sunday of each month.



NATIVE PLANT EXPO - Seasons of Creation in Practice

The Bellarine Peninsula used to be covered by woodlands – shady trees with lovely shrubs and grasslands underneath. These hosted a rich diversity of native birds, mammals, reptiles and wee creatures that fed the bigger beasties and kept the soil and wetlands fertile. Now, 5% or less of these woodlands remains. Only a vestige of our native critters survives in these remnants (and some back yards). But all is not lost. There are good people working hard to return local native vegetation to our beautiful Bellarine and many others who would like to do so.

Do you want to help restore native plants to the Bellarine Peninsula? And enjoy the birds and native animals that come with them? Victorian Landcare and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority are sponsoring a free

Native Plant Expo for the Geelong region, Victorian Landcare

WHEN: Thursday (27 Nov, 9:30am - 4pm)

WHERE: Eden Oak Geelong, 20 Adams Ct, East Geelong

You can find more information and book via the web site
<https://events.humanitix.com/native-nursery-expo>

Or talk to Andrea

Uniting Christmas tree Appeal

Members of our Linked Congregation are invited to purchase brand new unwrapped gifts for the appeal. They can be for any age.



The tree is ready and waiting in the Drysdale Church.

Portarlington folk, please bring your gifts next week to the Combined Service.

Advent Study

Our Advent study this year will explore the ideas in the book *The Church as Salt* by Sally Douglas.

There will be three sessions on Wednesdays: 26 November, December 3 and 10.

Arrive with your BYO lunch at noon at Joy and Ian Porter's home, 2/22 Brown St. Portarlington.

See Lorraine to get your pre-reading study book.

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 listed 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.