



## Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

### News sheet for Sunday, 30 November 2025

#### THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

##### Sunday, 30 November

##### **Portarlington & Drysdale**

10.15am Rev. Karen Eller  
Combined Linked service at Drysdale

##### Tuesday, 2 December

2.00pm Drysdale Advent Studies

##### Wednesday, 3 December

10.30am Portarlington Pastoral Care Team Meeting,  
Joy and Ian Porter's home  
12.00pm Portarlington Advent Studies  
2.00pm Midweek worship at Marg. Manning's home  
Rev. Karen Eller

##### Thursday, 4 December

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

##### Friday, 5 December

10.30am Morning Tea with the Minister  
Drysdale church hall

##### Sunday, 7 December

##### **Portarlington**

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller

##### **Drysdale**

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller, *Holy Communion, loose  
change and foodbank*

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

##### **Sunday 30 November**

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

##### **Sunday 7 December**

Advent 2

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

##### **Theme Ideas from Ministry Matters**

Advent begins with a sense of preparation and urgent waiting. We prepare, but we don't know when, because time is in God's control. Let us live, then, with anticipation and readiness. Peace weaves through these scriptures: swords into ploughshares, peace for Jerusalem, and peace from quarrels. We are called to put on Christ and walk in God's ways.

##### **Prayer (Isaiah 2, Romans 13)**

Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within. Teach us how to get ready. Show how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk in your ways, as we put on your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide us on your paths of peace and understanding, as we prepare our hearts anew for the road ahead. *Amen.*

##### **The Christmas Bowl and Act for Peace**

##### **Advent 1**

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, a season of watching, waiting, and preparing our hearts for Christ's coming. Advent reminds us that the light of Christ breaks into even the darkest places, offering hope to people who are weary or displaced.

The Christmas Bowl is one of the ways the Church in Australia has embodied that hope for 76 years.



##### **Minister: Office**

Reverend Karen Eller

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##### **Drysdale Church Centre**

High Street DRYSDALE

**Email:** 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

##### **Portarlington Uniting Church**

(St. Andrew's)

**Email:** portarlingtonuc@gmail.com

Newcombe St PORTARLINGTON

<https://portarlingtonunitingchurch.org.au>

## The Christmas Bowl and Act for Peace (cont.)

Our focus this week is **Ethiopia** — a country where many families remain displaced and where opportunities for refugees can be extremely limited.

One such refugee is *Arsema*. After fleeing her home in Eritrea, she arrived in Ethiopia with her young daughter, carrying deep fear and uncertainty about the future. As an urban refugee, she struggled to find work, affordable housing, or a safe way to provide for her child. Through support from the Christmas Bowl and our local partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Interchurch Commission, Arsema joined the **TESFA PROGRAM**, which means “hope.” She received mentoring, vocational training, and small-business support. She’s now studying make-up artistry — a skill that will allow her to earn an income, care for her daughter, and build a stable future.

Arsema says that for the first time since fleeing home, she feels confident about the future and hopeful that her daughter will grow up with security and opportunity. *Her story reminds us that when people who have been displaced are given the chance to learn, work, and belong, hope takes root again.*

***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

### 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. Next Sunday will be last opportunity to support this worthy cause.

## PORTARLINGTON

**Portarlington 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, 3 and 10 December.

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.

## DRYSDALE

**Drysdale Advent study, When God Became White: Dismantling Whiteness for a More Just Christianity** will be held over three Tuesday afternoons, 2.00pm, at the Church on 2, 9 and 16 December.

Christianity is rooted in the ancient Near East among people of darker skin. But when Western Christians think about God, the default image that comes to mind is usually white and male. How did that happen? Theologian Grace Ji-Sun Kim explores the historical origins and theological implications of how Jesus became white and God became a white male. The myth of the white male God enabled Christianity to have a profoundly colonialist posture across the globe. Kim examines the roots of the distortion, its harmful impact on the world, and what it looks like to recover the biblical reality of a nonwhite, non-gendered God.

### Working Bee

All able bodies are invited to help out at a Church Working Bee, to be held on Saturday, 6 December, from 9.00 am.

A tidy up of the garden beds, and inside cleaning required before Christmas.



### Hanging Baskets

Do you happen to have any unused hanging baskets in your shed that you would like to see be given a new life?

It is planned to pot up hanging baskets and offer them for sale at our Plant Market Stall on Easter Saturday next year. You can either pot them up and bring along on the day or pass on to Marie Harris who will endeavour to get a plant ready for Easter.

### Bellarine Boomerang Bags

Bellarine Boomerang Bags in a not-for-profit organisation tackling plastic bag pollution at its source.

Volunteers collect and upcycle unwanted material and sew beautiful re-usable shopping bags! Some material from our Op Shop has already been made into bags and donated to Bellarine Boomerang Bags.

There is a stand in the Drysdale Library where you are invited to take a bag and use it for your shopping.

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, [drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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.