Linked Congregations of the Bellarine





Uniting Church in Australia **Portarlington** **Drysdale**

NEWS SHEET - Sunday, 4 October, 2026

OCTOBER IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

WORSHIP SERVICES

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, 4 October
9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller
10.30am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller
Holy Communion, Loose change & foodbank

Wednesday, 7 October
2.00pm **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller
Mid-week Service at Marg Manning's

Sunday, 11 October
9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller,
Holy Communion.
10.30am **Drysdale** Lay Team - Denise

Tuesday, 13 October
11.00am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller
Regis Aged Care Worship

Thursday, 15 October
11.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller
Arcare Worship

Sunday, 18 October
9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller
Loose change and foodbank
10.30am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller

Sunday, 25 October
9.00am **Portarlington** Lay Team – Hughes
10.30am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller

NEW!
Karen has added a commentary on the readings for us each week, describing the theme.

Sunday, 4 October Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Pentecost 19 Psalms 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Singing in Tune with God's Love
From Sinai's words of life to the vineyard's call for fruit, we listen for God's song of justice and learn to live in tune with love.

Sunday, 11 October Exodus 32:1-14
Pentecost 20 Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14

God's Wide-Open Table
As the people make a golden calf and Jesus speaks of a wide-open banquet, we ponder the fears and distractions that cause us to turn away from trust, and listen for God's call to trust and celebration.

Sunday, 18 October Exodus 33:12-23
Pentecost 21 Psalms 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Whose Image Do We Bear?
As Jesus holds a coin and asks whose image it bears, we wonder what it means to belong to God and to live as people who carry God's image in a complicated world.

Sunday, 25 October Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Pentecost 22 Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17
I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Love at the Centre
As Jesus gathers the commandments into love of God and neighbour, we are invited to place love at the centre of everything and live with courage, honesty, and embodied care.

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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

Portarlington Uniting Church
(St. Andrew's)
portarlingtonuc@gmail.com
Newcombe St PORTARLINGTON
https://portarlingtonunitingchurch.org.au

LINKED CONGREGATION NOTICES: OCTOBER

OCTOBER FILM EVENT

Sun, 11 Oct, 2pm - 4pm

Portarlington Guides Hall

The Justice Team at the Bellarine Linked Uniting Church Congregations (Portarlington and Drysdale) are proud to present the film 'The Price of Free.' which documents one man's quest in the liberation from child slavery.
Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, THE PRICE OF FREE (formerly titled Kailash) is a suspenseful yet intimate look at one man's groundbreaking struggle to liberate every child possible from slavery.

THE PRICE of FREE **Tickets: $15 ea.**



TICKETS AVAILABLE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW,
OR FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES: bit.ly/4q6lkEz
OR https://portarlingtonunitingchurch.org.au

Tickets for good, not greed
Humanitix dedicates 100% of profits from booking fees to charity

If you are unsure about booking online, please call Joy Porter for assistance on 0406 307 433



An Invitation

from Portarlington Uniting Church: St Andrew's
~ to remember a loved one who has died in previous years.

When: Sunday November 1st 2026 at 9am

Where: Guide Hall
Portarlington Reserve, Boat Rd.

Why: To remember and be in solidarity with others who have suffered loss.

How: A short service to name a loved one, light a candle if you wish and remember a loved one in a reflective space.

If you wish, you are invited to share a digital photo that you would like to be used in the service.

Morning tea will follow.

RSVP and any further details:
Marg Manning
mmanning47@hotmail.com

Combined choir for next linked congregations combined service on 29 November at 10.30am at Drysdale.
Calling all singers: We will once again form a combined choir for our next linked congregations service on the fifth Sunday of November and we'd love some new singers to join us.

Rehearsals will be at Joy and Ian Porter's home 2/22 Brown St Portarlington on Thursdays Nov 12th and 19th at 9.30am and at the Drysdale church on Thursday Nov 26th at 9.30am.

Please let Joy Porter know if you are intending to join so that music can be arranged for you.
Joy Ph 0406 307 433 or ianjoyporter@gmail.com

Next news sheet
The due date for items for November's news sheet is **Wednesday evening, 28 October**. Earlier contributions appreciated. It will be distributed by **Sunday, 1 November.**

DRYSDALE NOTICES

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, 17 October, 8.00am	Breakfast Bible Study
Friday, 6 November, 10.30am	Morning Tea with the Minister

PORTARLINGTON NOTICES

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, 14 October, 12.30pm (Arrive at 12pm if you would like to eat lunch together. BYO lunch)	Church Council meeting at David and Lorraine's home.
Friday, 16 October 10.30am	Letter writing at Marg Manning's

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au by the Wednesday prior to the first Sunday of each month and indicate in which section you would like your notice to appear.

Ministers Musings
October 2026

I am finding myself in a week of disappointments. On the local(ish) level, I found it heartbreaking to learn of the theft of two food vans belonging to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. These vans are instrumental in the food delivery service for ASRC's catering social enterprise which provides training and employment opportunities for refugees and people seeking asylum.

A bigger disappointment is with the NSW Independent Planning Commission's approval of the largest ever coal mine in the Hunter Valley. Not all is lost as the project also relies on federal environmental approval. Will our country knowingly add 100 heat-related deaths every year for the life of the mine? The NSW IPC cited Hunter Valley jobs and tax revenue as sufficient benefit to warrant exacerbating the climate emergency and adding to the climate-related death toll. One wonders if they have forgotten Nepal already, or the 45,000 extra deaths in Europe's summer attributed to human induced climate change.

We find in the course of life that multiple disappointments have small and large bearings on our lives in community. We can choose to be resentful of people who have made poor decisions which impact ourselves, our loved ones or our community, or we can choose to be generous with the foolishness or selfishness of others. We can choose to be despondent and give up on engaging in life, or we can choose to continue to live faithfully and fully as circumstances allow. The choice is ours, because God gives us the freedom to live in the power of the Spirit. We have the power to be kind, regardless of how others behave. We also have the right to demand respect and dignity for ourselves and people in our communities. Jesus did not tell anyone to be a doormat, but rather speak up for justice.

Therefore next Tuesday (6 October) I will be gathering with a crowd of faithful others at 10am at St Michael's in Collins St Melbourne as a sign of solidarity with our Pacific neighbours. The event is organised by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), a multi-faith organisation having an ever louder voice in the marketplace. The timing is strategic – to coincide with the Pre-COP Summit in Fiji and Tuvalu. I would be very happy to have companions!

At the time of writing the stolen food vans have been recovered after a community appeal on radio and social media. Despite the disappointments, I know God is with us all. Jesus directs us to see and hear our neighbour and get involved. To quote a famous hymn, "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love…"

Every blessing in your faithfulness

Karen

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