

Weekly Pew Sheet

The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

Sunday 12th May, 2019



Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Stephens

"Making sense of Revelation"



Image: Fresco from the Monastery of Saint-Antoine-le-Grand France

Are you new to St Luke's?

If you would like to connect with us, complete a pew card or please let one of the pastoral connections team know (they're the ones wearing a flower on their lapel) so that you can be included in our contact list and invited to join in.

The monthly newsletter, St Luke's Link, is published on the first Sunday of the month. The deadline for submissions is the last Wednesday of the month. Brief, interim notices are published in a single page weekly bulletin, deadline Thursday 9:00 am, and announced prior to services.

e-mail items to news@stlukesuca.org.au

Office administrator: Robyn Hodge. Office open hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:30-12:30pm

Congregation News

Mother's Day "Thinking" Table Today

Mother's day is a time when we especially think about our Mothers and all Mothers on our planet. Take your time to visit our Mother's Day Thinking Table. You may even be pleased to buy a gift for someone special in your life.



Rae Anderson for Mission Outreach.

Gideons prayer

We were heartened to receive a letter from the Greater Geelong Camp of the Gideons International recently to let us know that they were praying for us and our ministry and to thank us for the support St Luke's provides to Gideons members and their work. In light of the connection we have had through Ken Allen, (and continue to have with Beth and the Patchetts) this encouragement was especially appreciated.

May House Church

Date: Sunday 26 May 2019. Please note not the usual 3rd Sunday this month.

Venue: Drol Kar Buddhist Centre, 625 Nortons Rd, Paraparap VIC. Ph: 5266 1788.
<https://www.drolkarbuddhistcentre.org/>

Time: 1.15 pm meet in the car park. 1.30 pm meet Karen Mayer and Valerie Druce at the Centre (walk through the large steel gate).

Activity: After a discussion about Buddhism with Karen and Valerie and a tour of the Centre, the Drol Kar community will provide afternoon tea for us. Shoes must be removed to go into the temple, so it is recommended that you wear comfortable slip ons.

RSVP: by midday Friday 24 May 2019 so firm numbers can be given to Drol Kar. Kevin or Joy by email (kjmca@ozemail.com.au) or phone 5243 1448, or David and Carol Manks by email (admin@davidmankspychology.com.au) or phone 5222 4212 or 0409 255 146.

Wider Church News

Update from the Wesley Centre

2018 saw the Wesley staff working hard on promoting the Wesley Centre through a number of marketing avenues including a new version of our Fact Sheet and Brochure and were busy networking with other members of the community. After consulting with local GP's a decision was made to subsidise the gap fee for any client who has a Health Care Card and Mental Health Care Plan from the 1st June.

The Anger Management Program and our relationship with Corrections continued to grow and receive great feedback. 2019 sees the Wesley Centre branch out further into the Mental Health field with a view to offering Dual Diagnosis Counselling. This will complement other areas already included such as: Relationship and Family issues; Grief, loss and bereavement; Depression; Anxiety; Trauma; Anger Management and Stress Management.

Our counsellors are highly experienced and our fees are based on a sliding scale. We can be contacted directly or receive referrals from other agencies. You will be supported to cope, grow and heal in an environment that nurtures you and protects your privacy and dignity.

“With a warm greeting once stepping inside, it’s obvious how safe the Wesley Centre is. Clean & fresh surroundings with staff whom are at ease, soon help you feel comfortable. There’s a knowing of no judgement with all the staff and rise in self-esteem with grace from the staff. A genuinely humble place to sit and chat and feel empowered.”



**OUR VISION IS FOR
AN INCLUSIVE AND
EQUAL SOCIETY WHERE
EVERY PERSON CAN
PLAY THE ROLE THEY
WISH AND WOMEN AND
CHILDREN FEEL SAFE IN
THEIR HOMES AND
COMMUNITIES.**

**UNITING.CHURCH/
VISIONSTATEMENT2019**

“Everything’s gotten a lot lighter now. I can see a future.”

Reminders and Appeals

Flower donations needed for Mother's Day Stall

Dorothy is making flower baskets for the Mission Outreach Mother's Day Stall in Highton Village this coming week. If you have any flowers available from your garden, please call 4222 7835 to arrange delivery - thank you!

New Volunteers needed for the Flower Roster

St Luke's is grateful for the flowers reminding us of God's beautiful creation each Sunday morning at St. Luke's, and on other special occasions. We give thanks for the service of Mary Baird and Pearl Mills who are retiring from the roster this month. If you have an interest in floral arrangements, and would like to join the Sunday service roster, please contact Robyn at the church office for further information.

Roster update

May rosters are in pigeonholes ready to be picked up for those who get a printed copy. Just a reminder to please let Robyn know if you will be unavailable for Sunday morning service duty in June - thanks!

Op shop volunteers urgently needed

Are you keen to volunteer in the Porter Ave Op Shop 2 hours (or more) a month?

Uniting Barwon URGENTLY needs motivated reliable volunteers from 10am till 12pm Saturdays!

Uniting Barwon (formerly UnitingCare Geelong) is an emergency relief agency providing assistance to individuals and families in our local community who need practical support during times of financial and personal struggle.

If you—or someone you know—would enjoy being part of a can-do volunteer team, please contact Elizabeth Hopkin on 4210 1113 or email

Elizabeth.Hopkin@vt.uniting.org

Support vulnerable people in the community and help make a difference.

**Volunteer appointments are subject to satisfactory criminal history checks, reference checks and Working with Children Check prior to commencement.*

The logo for Uniting Barwon, featuring the word "Uniting" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. The letter "i" in "Uniting" has a dot above it. A thick purple horizontal line is positioned below the text.



OUR VISION FOR A JUST AUSTRALIA

#AUSVOTES2019

As pre-polling opens for the 2019 Australian election and the leaders face off in their first debate, we encourage Uniting Church members to think deeply about their vote.

Our pre-election vision statement Our Vision for a Just Australia invites us to think beyond ourselves to the big concerns for our country today.

Prepared by those working for justice in our Church, the statement expresses our hope for an Inclusive and Equal Society where all are equal and free to exercise our rights equally. In particular, we seek to create a society where women and children are safe in their own homes and communities.

There continues to be high rates of Domestic and family violence (DFV) in Australia, with around 1 in 4 women having experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15. DFV is the leading cause of illness, disability and premature death among women aged 25 to 44.

Our UCA vision statement calls for a comprehensive approach to preventing gender-based violence. This includes challenging the social norms and practices that underpin it.

QUESTIONS for your candidates or for small groups:

What is your commitment to the equality of women across our community and what actions will you take to promote this?

How will you tackle the high rates of domestic and family violence, both in terms of prevention and supporting people who are affected?

What initiatives are already happening or could happen in your local community that could promote awareness of domestic and family violence and offer support for people impacted by this violence?

Consider having a Break the Silence Sunday in your congregation. A resource guide has been created with prayers, liturgies, sermon starters, music suggestions and more.

Community news

Going Out Green: Planning a Sustainable Funeral

Presented as part of the Geelong Regional Libraries “Clever Living” seminar series. For many of us, living sustainably is a lifelong occupation. But can that extend to the end of our lives, and our funeral planning? In this seminar, renowned community educator Libby Moloney looks at natural and sustainable funeral planning choices, from home-based death and family led (DIY) funerals, to your rights and responsibilities under the law. Presented in partnership with Geelong Sustainability Group. Please note a small fee of \$5 applies for this session.

Venue: The High Ground, Geelong Library and Heritage Centre

Date and Time: Tuesday, 28 May 2019 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Prayer Points

Prayer points this week come from our Trekkies group and from the World Council of Churches prayer cycle - this weeks prayers from **India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

- God breaks down barriers
- For the creative people in this world who enrich our spiritual life and connect us with deep things.
- Give thanks for the rain.
- Give thanks for mothers ... may Mother's Sunday be a day of peace, harmony and reconciliation
- Give thanks for the way in which Biblical texts such as Psalm 23 touch hearts and lives, and bring comfort.
- For the diversity of peoples in **these countries**: their cultures, values and spirituality
- For the resilience of minority religious groups and those on the margins of society such as indigenous communities, Dalits, women, youth, the disabled and sexual minorities, amid discrimination and persecution
- For the contributions of Christians and Christian churches in these countries to education and health services and for their innovative attempts in contextualizing their worship, theology and institutional life
- For efforts to forge inter-religious solidarity for the sake of the common good.

Prayers of intercession - pray for

- Those who are struggling with health issues and/or facing surgery
- Those who find daily life a challenge
- Our country's future as we vote for a new Federal Parliament
- Peace between nations and civility in the relationship between international leaders ... pray especially for the relationship between North Korea and the USA
- People who find themselves stateless
- Refugees and our country's response to their needs
- Those who struggle to overcome grinding poverty
- Christians and others who selflessly work in the community, their efforts at ensuring the rights of all citizens, and their collaborative work
- Efforts to build understanding and harmony among peoples across religious, caste and ethnic identities
- peoples' movements struggling for the rights of women, Dalits, Indigenous peoples, and the integrity of the earth
- leaders to keep priority on the wellbeing of the people and the earth itself amid demands for economic growth.

Prayer from India:

When everything around seems to be collapsing into injustice and chaos

Creator God, teach us to love you

and to recognize that you hold the earth gently in your hands.

When we do not know just what to do and where to turn,

teach us to trust your wisdom,

so that we can discern your presence in events around us.

When we become unforgiving and vindictive,

teach us to grasp your tenderness,

and forgive us for all we do wrong.

When violence, fear and hatred seem to overtake us,

teach us to receive your compassion,

and steer our lives in the ways of justice and peace.

When we think we can go it alone,

teach us to depend on your grace,

so that with patience and persistence we can transform the world.

But most of all,

teach us to appreciate your goodness,

for in you we have new life!

(Aruna Gnanadason, India, WCC coordinator for Justice, Peace and Creation)

What's On this coming week

What's on @stlukeschurchgeelong 13th-19th May 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
	9:30-12:00pm Men's Shed	8-9am Worship & Education Team (Fellowship Room)	9:30-12:00pm Men's Shed 9:30-11:30am Prayer Space Open (Sanctuary)	9-10am Walking Group (Barwon Edge) 9:15-10:45am Trekkies (Fellowship Room)	Saturday 8am-1pm Garage Sale
	11am-2pm Funeral of Francis Walker (Main building)			12:30-2:30 Sewing Group (Chapel, Fellowship Room)	9:30am Presbytery in Council Narana
	5:30-7:30pm English Classes (Fellowship Room)	6pm Rotary Star Search (Sanctuary, Fellowship Room)	4-5pm Choir Practise (Jenny's House)	4-7pm Messy Church Sanctuary, Hall, Fellowship room, Kitchen	Sunday 9:30am Worship

Sunday Worship 19th May		Lectionary Readings
Worship Leader: Welcomer: Ushers: Sound: Powerpoint: Reader: Morning tea: Connections: Driver/s: Sharing the Journey: Vestry Prayer: Flowers:	Rev. Paul Stephens P Mills T & D Ayrton M & M Batson C McAvaney I Pooley C Findlay S Shaba & H Al Badran J Pooley C & D Manks Max Robertson 0439049717 or email mlrobertson@optusnet.com.au B McLelland J White	<p>Easter 5 Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelations 21:1-16 John 13:31-35 Liturgical Colour: White</p> <p>Communion Setup:</p> <p>I Speare & P Caddy</p> <p>Communion Bread:</p> <p>B Tattersall</p> <p>Communion Servers:</p> <p>I Speare & L Salamy E Nicholls & B Murphy S Anderson & D Younghusband</p>