

Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

NOVEMBER HEADLINES

REFLECTIONS ON
THE REFERENDUM
BY TOM SPURLING

PRAYER of DIVERSITY
FROM JI ZHANG

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AT
PAKENHAM UC

JOURNEY OF
GRATITUDE BY REV
HEEYOUNG LEE

INTERCULTURAL
FORUM RETREAT &
AGM

PPEP MINISTERS'
DAY RETREAT

THE SYNOD SCOOP

PERSONAL SUPPORT
TRAINING WITH
VCC EMERGENCIES
MINISTRY



Port Phillip East Presbytery

WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,
schools & members are doing

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN PAKENHAM

This month Pastor Riak Kiir reflects on the theme “Multiculturalism, Youth and Diversity” by discussing how important community is for Sudanese children, youth and their families.

I begin with prayer: as we live this life, God, we ask that you take care of our brothers and sisters in Christ within this community. Help us to develop a strong connection, build long lasting relationships and ultimately be Christ's Light to His people.

Pakenham Congregation, have explored their community and seen a large population of Sudanese children, youth and families.

That is why Pakenham engaged Pastor Riak Kiir to take on the responsibility of building bridges between church and other service networks in the mission area.

In addition, he has been providing Pastoral Support to South Sudanese parents and their children, especially pre-school aged children, by linking them with appropriate services and programs.

Some tasks that I have been taking on have been:

- Helping Sudanese women with obtaining citizenship, passports or travel document/s.
- Assisting individual families with their personal finances and helping maintain a budget for these families.
- Engaging with the Cardinia Shire Council
- Assisting our Christian schools in addressing cultural understanding

Our Sudanese Community also have received support from our local women's choir that gather in a home in Cranbourne west, who assist in sharing and encouraging those that have lost a loved one. They have helped families with funeral services, and by being an encouraging light with words and support.

Pastor Riak Kiir was recently invited to share the Word of God with the Sudanese Anglican church at their Sunday service. In this way he is building a strong connection to engage with their youth, families by supporting the broader Sudanese community.

Pastor Riak also supports other groups like the Dinka group who gather every Sunday evening at St Michael & St Luke's Heatherton Rd Dandenong and another group that gathers at St Andrew Uniting Church Berwick in the Afternoon with their own pastor.

Pastor Riak & Sarah Manase



ON A JOURNEY-REFLECTION BY REV JOHN HAIG

Diversity can be said to be the practice of involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds, as well as different genders, and sexual orientations. Rev John Haig reflects on the importance of variety for this month's theme.

Growing up in a provincial city on the Darling Downs 75 years ago, a task I looked forward to was going to the small corner store with a billy to buy scoops of ice cream for dessert. We only had an ice chest in those days so it was always a quick trip home. I remember being asked if I wanted vanilla, strawberry or chocolate although occasionally there was butterscotch brickle! [Yum]

So, can you imagine the amazement of my first encounter with Baskin Robbins' 31 flavours! Sheer delight. These days it's the dilemma of choosing which gelato in Lygon Street. So many flavours, so little time and so many calories. Similarly, my collection of CDs reflects a diverse range of artists, genres and eras. As do the books on my library shelves. They say that variety is the spice of life.

But what about my journey of faith?

I discovered a fellow spirit when I encountered Brian McLaren's "A Generous Orthodoxy" which is subtitled:

**“ Why am I a missional+ evangelical
+ post/protestant + liberal/
conservative + mystical/poetic +
biblical + charismatic/contemplative +
fundamentalist/Calvinist + Anabaptist/
Anglican + Methodist + Catholic +
green + incarnational + depressed-
yet-hopeful + emergent + unfinished
CHRISTIAN.”**

God has built diversity into the fabric of the universe, so why not into expression of our faith?



MULTICULTURAL YOUTH RALLY

Saturday 10 December from 6pm for all people young and young at heart across the Uniting Church to come together at Canterbury Uniting for worship and community.

For more information please email [Virginia Lavaki](mailto:Virginia.Lavaki@uniting.org.au).

CONVERGE CONFERENCE

Held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry for people passionate about youth ministry and discipleship

[Click here to register](#)

At CONVERGE 2023 you will connect with other youth ministry practitioners - leaders of leaders - as well as being equipped and encouraged in your personal and professional formation.

A key focus of the conference will be looking at the findings from the Your Story research into the developmental faith markers identified by young people.

Conference kicks off at 6pm Thursday 9th with the public launch of the Your Story report, then continues through Friday, and concludes Saturday at 1pm.



JOURNEY OF GRATITUDE

Rev Heeyoung Lim invites us to step into her shoes as she shares her Journey of Gratitude and Blessings, and her new beginning as a UCA Minister of the Word.



I was born and raised, and ordained in Seoul, South Korea. I worked in the Education and Resource Department of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK, one of UCA's partner denominations) for 10 years. Following my move to Australia, I have served as a recognised and inducted minister for 9 years; first in the Korean Church of Melbourne and then at Leighmoor Uniting Church.

Recently, I completed the necessary procedures for me to transfer from PCK to UCA. The Service of Admission for myself as Minister of the Word within the UCA will be held on November 12. I believe and appreciate that God places me, and leads me within His will.

I give many thanks first to God, and then to the ministers, staff and members from the PPE Presbytery, PRC, JNC, MLDC, and in Synod, together with the ministers in the Murrumbidgee, Coatesville, and Leighmoor Uniting Churches cluster because I am truly blessed by their warm care, endless help, loving prayers, and continuous encouragements.

During my UCA Journey, I have learned many things from UCA churches and ministers in terms of ministry, worship, education, fellowship, culture, and self-care. The way into the Uniting Church holds a special significance for me as it demonstrates unity and continues to do so by the fellowship of various congregations and communities responding together.



One thing I continue to be interested in is the formation and transformation of our Leighmoor congregation in terms of five essential factors of church, 1) worship and liturgy, 2) teaching and training, 3) preaching and mission, 4) fellowship and pastoral care, and 5) serving and doing through lifelong faith growth and experiences of faith. I aim for these to be achieved within every age group in our church, while it is also balanced, intercultural, intergenerational, and missional.

I sincerely appreciate that the Leighmoor congregation is a faith community that is spiritually mature, emotionally encouraging, and generously supportive. I believe God will use me for a new phase according to His plans through serving the Leighmoor Uniting Church. I also want to contribute to life-long discipleship and a culture of discipleship in our congregation and wider faith communities through my ministries and involvement in MLDC.

I confess that my UCA journey has been a Journey of Gratitude and Blessings. I hope you will pray with me that this new beginning and the rest of my journey will be filled with love and joy.

Thanks be to God!

Rev Heeyoung Lee

CELEBRATING 170 YEARS AT TRINITY BRIGHTON



What a milestone! Rev Anneke Opperswal joined with Trinity Brighton Congregation to celebrate 170 years on 28th and 29th October.

In 1852 a group of Independents – later called Congregationalists – first met in a home in Brighton. Next year services began in a 10x12 tent, which was erected on an allotment in Carpenter Street, Brighton.

In 1857 land in Black Street was purchased and a wooden chapel erected. On its completion money continued to be raised for a more substantial church. This created the beautiful building completed in December, 1875 which remains to this day.

During this period, a Moreton Bay fig tree was donated by Baron Dr Ferdinand von Müller in 1869. It continued to grow to this day, and its current size remains a testament to his generosity.

The music life of Christian worship was enhanced by the construction in 1884 of the historic Fincham organ. Over the years from late in the 19th century a number of beautiful stained glass windows of differing styles have been installed.

Over this time a number of faithful Ministers have graced the pulpit, including the Rev George Gunson's whose 34 year ministry began in 1926. Rev Kevin Kim is the 20th and current Minister of the Word.

A significant memory of the church is that the General Meeting of the Congregational Union of Australia in this church is when the Congregational churches resolved to join the new Uniting Church in Australia.

After an extensive renovation in the late 1980s, this building was renamed Trinity and reopened in February 1992. Numbers of Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Brighton have closed over recent years. Trinity UCA continues on in ministry and Christian witness to this day carrying the memories of similar witness and worship in those other churches.

Ian Cayzer



REFLECTIONS ON THE REFERENDUM



Tom Spurling, Presbytery Chairperson, shares his thoughts and reflections on the results of the recent Referendum.

I was very disappointed when on 14 October 'A Proposed Law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice' was not approved by nearly 61% of the voters Australia wide and nearly 55% in Victoria.

But I wasn't surprised.

It was Robert Menzies, after his one referendum defeat (the banning the Communist Party referendum of 1951) who said;

'The truth of the matter is that to get an affirmative vote from the Australian people on a referendum proposal is one of the labours of Hercules.'

Menzies' pessimism is supported by the evidence. Of the 45 proposals put to referenda since 1901 only 8 have passed. None has passed without bipartisan support.

Voters in our Presbytery followed the national pattern, (see Table, AEC data as of 17 October, <https://tallyroom.aec.gov.au/ReferendumNationalResults-29581.htm>). The inner-city electorates such as Macnamara and Higgins voted strongly 'yes' and the outer city areas such as Flinders and La Trobe voted strongly 'no'. There is clearly a great diversity of opinion across the breadth of our Presbytery, and possibly also in our congregations.

I am a Life Member of the ALP and so have experienced many electoral defeats. There is always the temptation to blame the voters. We should always resist that temptation. In a democracy like ours we must accept election results for what they are. The proposal was defeated because we, the supporters of the proposal, didn't do enough to persuade the

Electorate	% yes
Bruce	41.78
Casey	41.87
Chisholm	49.38
Dunkley	43.65
Flinders	42.10
Goldstein	55.88
Higgins	59.95
Holt	43.84
Hotham	49.10
Isaacs	50.18
La Trobe	37.82
Macnamara	63.63

majority of voters that it was in their interest to vote for the proposal.

So, what's next?

Let's not despair. A start might be to read the 'Statement of the Heart' again. Especially the last few paragraphs:

"We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

"We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

"Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

"We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

"In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future".

I hope that the next step is to establish a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of truth-telling about the history of the interaction between our first and second peoples.



INTERCULTURAL BORDERLESS COMMUNITY

Ennis Macleod, sub-editor of Newsbeat, attended a fun and cultural day at Canterbury Baldwin Rd UC exploring with the Synod Intercultural Forum Committee what it means to be a borderless community.

Port Phillip East was well represented at the podium, and in the audience, at the SIF retreat and AGM held at Canterbury on Saturday 28th October. As host, Rev Salesi Faupula opened the retreat with worship, and an introduction to the theme: the Borderless Community. He was followed by three speakers: Rev Semisi Tauali'i from Mt Waverley, Pastor Virginia Lavaki as Younger Generations Multicultural Ministries Coordinator, and Rev Dr Ji Zhang, team-leader of the Casey-Cardinia regional initiative.

My take-away from Semisi and Nia was that being the ONE body of Christ does not mean violating other people's cultural borders, but instead lowering our own borders so that all are allowed access to Christ. Ji's presentation on the Borderless God reiterated that Christian theology has been rooted in many countries over the last almost 2000 years.

He shared some of his research into recent archaeological findings in China, which demonstrate that the Gospel of Christ was known and celebrated in China from at least the time of the Tang Dynasty (635-832CE). The Cosmic Cross illustrated below, dated to the 7th to 8th centuries, discovered recently in Luoyang, China.



The focus of interculturalism is on “relationship building (not survival), deep connections, interactions, mutual gifting, respect, and learning from one another,” PPEP Multicultural & Intercultural Churches Conversation, July 2021.



Juliet Maua'i - Secretary of SIF Committee
Lavingi Tupou - Chair of SIF Committee

In it, the Cross is surrounded by the White Clouds (Daoist) and placed over the White Lotus (Buddhist). Christianity was first introduced to China by the Church of the East, between 635-832 during the Tang Dynasty. The Christ was worshiped as the Messiah, according to the early Christian scroll “Listen to the Messiah.”

In the wider discussion that followed, table groups responded, reiterating the importance of the Uniting Church being a multicultural church, but charging leaders with the need to expand beyond multiculturalism to being intercultural, both in ministry and in mission.

The borderless community does not require any cultural group, or any generation of any cultural group to lose their identity. Rather, travel across borders requires recognition that the ‘other’ has gifts to share given by God, and that the gifts I have from God are for me

to share with ‘others’ as well.

Conversations continued over the magnificent Tongan style feast, and the entertainment provided by Tongan and Samoan young people. We were also treated to an impromptu Fijian dance from Talatala Semisi, supported by Chadstone Fijian Church members and friends.

During the AGM, chair, Rev Lavingi Tupou, farewelled Rev Dev Anandarajan, and welcomed several younger members onto the committee.

Following the AGM, Rev Leslie Guerrero from the Philippines, currently visiting the church at Dandenong, closed the meeting in prayer and thanksgiving.



The meeting was entertained during the meal, including a dance by five Tongan girls from the Canterbury Balwyn Rd Congregation.



Rev Salesi Faupula introduced and lead a song during his welcome



Pastor Nia Lavaki, VicTas Younger Generations Multicultural Ministries Coordinator.

All photos courtesy of Rev Dr Ji Zhang.





NATIONAL TREE DAY AT SOUTHERN MORNINGTON PENINSULA (SMPUC)

SMPUC are strongly supportive of Tony Rinaudo's project, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, inspired by his vision of hope and simplicity.

Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting celebrated National Tree Sunday with a visit from Tony Rinaudo as guest preacher. He shared with us a story of faith in action and a message of hope. Tony is the winner of the 2022 Sparklit Australian Religious Book of the Year Award, for his book "The Forest Underground: Hope for a Planet in Crisis," and was named as a Right Livelihood Award Laureate in 2018 for his work in sustainability. He is also the son-in-law of SMPUC Church Council member, Jill Fearon.

The church was suitably decorated by the Visual Messages Team led by Gwen Smith and the decorations were kept in place for the first Sunday in Seasons of Creation, Forest Sunday.

In his sermon, Tony shared how his mission in life was driven by a childhood prayer formed as he observed the deforestation and degradation of the hills around his home in the Myrtleford/ Wangaratta areas of Victoria, and the environmental destruction throughout the world.

"Father God, please use me somehow, somewhere, to make a difference."

This prayer led him to the West African nation of Niger in the Sahel where he developed the process of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration [FMNR – Google it for other information]. The result has been the recovery of a million hectares of degraded land throughout Africa and in other countries, and the development of grassroots agriculture and food security in some of the poorest countries in the world.

He returned to Australia after 17 years to work with World Vision Australia where he was able to broaden the scope of his work by training others to support their communities to become more self-sufficient.

At the conclusion of worship, the congregation gathered at the entrance to the church where Tony planted a tree, under the watchful eye of Jill. To commemorate the occasion, all those attending the service were provided with a shrub, rather than a tree in recognition of the fact that a large majority of them are living in units.

The book "The Forest Underground: Hope for a Planet in Crisis" can be bought from ISCAST or Koorong in Australia or NZ. Details about where to purchase it elsewhere can be found on the ISCAST website: [iscast/tfu/](http://iscast.tfu/)



At the conclusion of worship, the congregation gathered at the entrance to the church where Tony planted a tree to commemorate the occasion.

Jill Ferron & John Haig



PRAYER FOR MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

This is an extract of “A Prayer of Diversity of Cultures and Younger Generations” provided by Rev Dr Ji Zhang that he shared it with the SIF Borderless Community retreat and AGM.

*God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar,
God of Djinyini, Mario, Tinh, and the Dao.*

*We give thanks for the beauty and uniqueness of this
southern Land.*

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the Land on which
we stand.*

We pray for the Creator’s protection upon the First Peoples.

We pray for your accepting Grace upon all Second Peoples.

*In the light of Referendum,
we pray for forgiveness and healing peace.
May the racism and destruction
that have been part of our history
no longer divide us.*

*May the Spirit of healing be with those in pain,
and experiencing oppression within their own country.*

*O God,
Our body and the Land are not two,
but One.
Call upon the multicultural Australia
to be united by the Spirit of the Land.
Take away our tunnel vision,
open our hearts to our neighbours
who also embody the diversity of your Creation.
Direct our lives
to the potency of life,
to see
the Spirit of God is also the Spirit of Creation.*

*God of a thousand faces,
help us to acknowledge.*

*You are One,
yet You are worshiped by many.
In our languages, in our songs,
in our cultural rhythms of life,
we praise you.*

*May we respect many and varied insights,
emerging from the depth of our beings,
instructing our faith
to seek further understanding of each other
within the Body of Christ.*

*We rejoice in our younger generations,
for their courage for justice,
for their determination in climate action
for their connectivity and openness,
for their hopes –
enabling us to dream dreams.*

*We give thanks for the whole humanity,
made in the likeness of the Trinity,
created as relational beings.
Call us into this relationship,
allow intergenerational and intercultural ministries
to transform us all
who are seeking the same belonging
in the life of Uniting Church.*

*Grant us courage to accept our differences,
Grant us strength to resist our prejudice,
Grant us love to care for each other.
Grant us eyes to see the way Christ sees the world,
Grant us space of grace to become one big family,
Grant us hope to renew Christ’s Church,
only by partaking
in and through,
the economy of God’s salvation.
Amen.*

(The prayer is adapted from prayers in the Assembly Resource “Mission Prayer Handbook” 1991-2003. You can see the whole prayer by Ji Zhang [here](#).)



PPEP SYNOD MEMBERS ATTENDING THE 17th VIC/TAS SYNOD MEETING

What to expect

The Synod meeting provides an opportunity to come together with others from across all eight presbyteries to worship, determine the policies and direction of the Synod and its agencies, and to consider reports from institutions, committees, task groups, presbyteries, Synod Ministries and Operations, UAICC Vic, UAICC Tas and other reporting bodies. For the duration of the four days of the meeting, the members of Synod become a community, listening respectfully to each other as they seek to discern God's will. It is important for members to come open to the movement of the Spirit which leads to hearts and minds being renewed, challenged and changed.

To foster community and to make and affirm friendships, the plenary sessions of the Synod are conducted with members seated in allocated table groups for the duration of the meeting. At various times during the course of business sessions, the Moderator might ask the table groups to discuss a proposal that is before them. This enables members to voice concerns, ask questions, or seek clarification from each other.

Members are also placed in designated working groups of approximately 12 people. These groups will meet once online prior to the Synod meeting and twice during Synod, to work through significant business matters. A facilitation team receives the feedback from these working groups and if required will reframe proposals to better represent the will of the meeting as expressed through this feedback.



Having a voice

The Moderator chairs the meeting and wants to hear from a diversity of members. Each member's voice is important. In seeking to discern God's spirit, the smallest voice can effect change. Additional time at the microphone will be given to members for whom English is their second language. A hearing loop is also provided. Make sure you read the Manual for Meetings and you will understand how you can engage effectively in the meeting (a helpful useful terms document is attached).

Preparation

The Synod expects that you will have read all the papers prior to arriving for the first day of business. All reports and some proposals are accessible on the Synod meeting hub which you can access via the website and/or App (an application which is downloadable to your smart phone or tablet and can also be opened in a web browser on a laptop computer).

If you have problems logging into our 2023 Synod Website and/or the Synod App please contact Sarah Manase on 0432882505 or via email on Synod2023@victas.uca.org.au for any further enquires.

We look forward to seeing you at Synod!





THE SYNOD SCOOP

Want to know more about what is happening across VicTas Synod? This month we look at Nominations for Assembly, resources to use in intergenerational worship, eLM's Mental Health Kit to help congregations, and coming events: Vic/Tas Synod Meeting, Indigenous Conference

PILGRIM VALEDICTORY



The Pilgrim Valedictory service is a chance to celebrate the conclusion of the academic year and farewell students finishing their awards. Our preacher will be Rev Rachel Kronberger.
[Click here to register.](#)

UC CAMPING



Uniting Church members are invited to attend three events in November and December which have been organised to mark the end of camping at UCA sites, following the Synod decision to divest. [Read More](#)

NOMINATIONS FOR ASSEMBLY



The 17th National Assembly of the Uniting Church will be held in Sydney (Parramatta) from 11-16 July, 2024. The Synod is inviting nominations from Uniting Church members wanting to attend, particularly those under the age of 30. Any confirmed member of the UCA is eligible to attend the National Assembly, but they must be nominated by a member of the 2023 Synod meeting.

DOWNLOADABLE MENTAL HEALTH KIT



The 2023 edition of the Synod's mental health kit is out now, featuring personal perspectives, worship resources, and checklists to help congregations respond to people with mental health issues.
[Download Booklet here.](#)

AWARDS AT CORNISH COLLEGE



Cornish College continues to be recognised for their commitment to the wellbeing of their students, and for their strategic plan for the future. The Presbytery is proud to be able to celebrate with Cornish College.

Let's recap: Cornish College's environmental achievements were recognised with the presentation of three prestigious awards as part of the Five Leaf Eco-Awards National Ecumenical Environmental Awards program (see September edition of Newsbeat). They also receiving an Excellence Award at the Australian Education Awards 2023 for their strategic plan, "Cornish College Strategy Story – Toward 2030." This month, the College is delighted to announce that they have just received another national award from *The Educator*.



Cornish College is one of 25 schools to be recognised in The Educator's inaugural 5-Star Sustainable Programs, which highlights schools at the forefront of sustainability and environmental education programs across Australia.

Each entry was assessed for detailed information, impact, metrics and true innovation – along with benchmarking against the other entries – to determine the final list, and the College is thrilled to have received this award.

Cornish College is proudly becoming what the world needs schools to become so that their community can make a difference and be the difference for a sustainable future.

Exciting times at Cornish College!

Dennis Freeman



PERSONAL SUPPORT TRAINING WITH VCC EMERGENCIES MINISTRY



The Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry is an organisation specialising in disaster response in Victoria. They are offering training 3 courses on psychological first aid and personal support, both online and face-to-face.

**Courses
available 11 Nov
to 7 Dec**
[\(Further details sent
when you register\)](#)



What does the training involve?

VCC EM training is a comprehensive training package designed to equip members of faith communities to support those affected by an emergency so they can participate in VCC EM deployments.

For those who want to apply for registration with the VCC EM, the training course is a part of a 2 stage process involving:

- Self-paced learning, completion of a workbook at least 3 days prior to the training.
- Attendance at the face-to-face or Zoom event, followed by completion of safety checks and referee reports which will occur after the training has been completed.

Why complete the training?

This training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria.

The Victorian State and Local Governments are continually tightening the requirements for people entering disaster areas.

The VCCEM is authorised by Government to coordinate an integrated faith communities' response when disaster occurs.

If you'd like to know more, please contact VCCEM at emergencies@vccem.org.au or call (03) 70376010 or visit their website at www.vccem.org.au



DIARY DATES

Creative Spiritual Practice – Endeavour Hills UC

Thursdays 7-9pm

Hosting Cothumos spiritual art journalling

Further info cothumos@gmail.com

Mission Meals Project

Thursdays 5.30 - 7pm

St Kilda South Port, 325 Dorcas St, Sth Melb.

Contact Rev Alex Sangster 0411 292 273

Simple Body - Meditation Videos

Mindfulness meditation by Rev. John Tansey

four times a week on [YouTube](#)

Ethical Ministry Refreshers

Wed 8 Nov & Thurs 9 Nov via Zoom

[Please register here](#)

Pilgrim Valedictory Service

Friday 10 Nov at 4pm at CTM

Vic/Tas Synod Meeting

18-21 November, 2023

Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road

Contact Synod Logistics Coordinator Sarah

Manase on sarah.manase@victas.uca.org.au

Misson Liasion Group Afternoon Tea

Saturday 25 Nov at 3pm

St Coloumba's UC, Noble Park

Garry Worete Deverell Book Launch for Contemplating Country

Thursday 23 Nov 23, at 7.00pm AEDT

UD, Paschall Campus

[Details and booking here through Hummanitix](#)

Multicultural Youth Rally

Sunday 10 Dec at 6pm

Canturbury Balwyn Rd Uniting Church



CASEY CARDINIA EMAIL UPDATE

The Casey Cardinia Regional Mission project is taking shape. If anyone in your congregation is interested in keeping up to date with the latest news on the Casey Cardinia Regional Project, subscribe to our email list using the QR code or [clicking on this link](#). For further details, contact Rev Robin Yang.



Uniting in Prayer November

Each week congregations are encouraged to include their neighbours in their prayers. The Presbytery's prayer calendar covers congregations, schools and agencies of the Uniting Church in our Presbytery and Synod. You can check the calendar on the Presbytery website.

01 November All Saints Day

05 November Port Phillip Regional Church (South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, St Kilda) - Rev John Tansey, Rev Alex Sangster and Chair

12 November Stonnington Community Church (East Malvern) - Rev Greg Crowe, Mr Dick Carter
Tamil Church Melbourne- Chair Anthonez Roberts

19 November Assembly & Synod appointments - Rev Duncan Macleod, Rev Dev Anandarajan, Rev Mat Harry, Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, Ms Mel Perkins, Kelly Skilton

26 November SoMang Faith Community - Rev Junho Back, Secretary Sarah Back
Melbourne Methodist Church in Zimbabwe Faith Community- Chair Evelyn Mavodza

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

By Rev Nigel McBrien Western Port Uniting Church Parish

Let us pray,
Heavenly Father,
Thank you for your enduring and
abundant gifts you bestow on the
Western Port UC Parish.
The cool winter mist that hovers
upon the Western Port waters in the
morning light.
For the flight of the birds ascending
quietly, majestically from the mist
upon the waters and taking to
the skies over the Peninsula.
The sun set low, it's radiating light
like many torches from Heaven,
The cloud of breath in the morning
chill from all things living in the
Western Port communities.
We give you thanks, O God for these
quiet reminders of your creative
presence in the Western Port
landscape.
As the day unfolds with the warm
beverage held with cupped hands for
warmth.
For the person we meet along the
pathway who acknowledges the day
with hello.
The person at the supermarket who
spends a moment in conversation,
The person who lightens our day in
our daily tasks.
We give you thanks, O God where you
bring lightness to life and

Remind us of all of what we could be,
because they lead us to you.
We know, as we listen and read the news,
that there is much that is broken in life.
Such stories are like a shattered mirror of
humanity that cannot be mended.
Thankfulness seems almost out of place,
until we find the stories of the rescuers,
the carers, the people who speak justice,
who shine bright in their Peninsula
endeavours.
Thank you, O God, that you are the light
that shines even the broken prisms of
light.
Thank You, Jesus for your redeeming Love
that inspires as we see your example.
Thank You Jesus for the power of your
love that shines, blesses, and restores as
we enjoy the
Peninsula's environment.
We give you thanks
We thank you for the moments where our
souls connect to You and we know that
we
are better for the encounter with you,
In this winter season, we thank you, O
God, for your reminder that you are
still present in the
everyday happenings
of Western Port life.

Amen



Port Phillip East Presbytery Uniting Church in Australia Staff & Key Office Bearers

Tom Spurling chair@ucappep.org
Jeff Gardner treasurer@ppe.victas.uca.org.au
Anneke Oppewal pm-pastoral@ucappep.org
David Higham pm-supply@ucappep.org
Robin Yang robin.yang.au@outlook.com.au
Sarah Manase comms-officer@ucappep.org
Anne Kim secretary@ucappep.org
(currently on leave and will be returning 14 Nov)



Visit the Port Phillip East Presbytery office
at 1 Allan St, Noble Park.



03 9558 4710



www.facebook.com/ucappep.org



www.ucappep.org



PO Box 696, Noble Park, VIC 3174

Email secretary@ucappep.org

Let Christmas wishes support those in need.



1 Australiana (Mixed Pack 1)

Wreath sentiment: Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Kookaburra sentiment: Wishing you all the joys of Christmas



2 Bauble and Tree (Mixed Pack 2)

Bauble sentiment: Season's Greetings and best wishes for the coming year
Tree sentiment: Wishing you every happiness this Christmas and throughout the New year



3 Holly (Mixed Pack 3)

Green Holly sentiment: Warmest wishes for a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year
Red Holly sentiment: May the festive season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones



4 Nativity

Sentiment: May joy be your gift at Christmas and may hope and love be your treasures in the New Year
 "The Magi opened their treasures and presented the baby Jesus with gifts..." Matthew 2:11



5 Peace Dove

Sentiment: A wish for peace and happiness at this Christmas season and throughout the New Year

Each pack
of 10 cards
is only \$11



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order online.

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