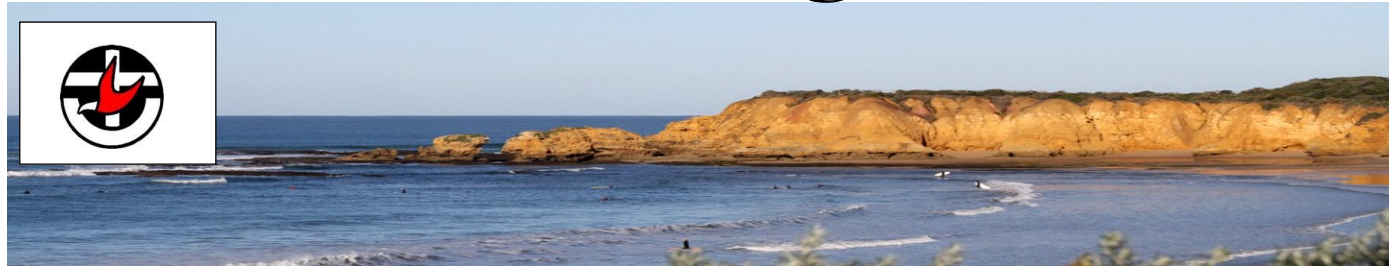


Surfcoast Uniting Churches



7th April 2019

Lectionary Readings

Lent 5C

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippines 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50 4-9a
Psalm 118 1-2, 19-29
Philemon 2: 5-11
Luke 19 28-40

Sunday Worship Services

Today

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Suzie Castle
Torquay	9:30	Rev Kenneth Ralph
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Kenneth Ralph


Next Week

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Kenneth Ralph
Torquay	9:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Kenneth Ralph
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Suzie Castle

Minister

Rev Suzie Castle
0421 023 197
suzie.castle@gmail.com
Days off: Wed & Sat

Congregation Information

Ph: (03) 5261 2369
 Surf Coast Uniting Church
W.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au
Postal Address:
P.O.Box 536 Torquay 3228 Vic

Aireys Inlet

St Aidan's Church
29 Great Ocean Road
Aireys Inlet.
aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Anglesea

Trinity Uniting Church
Murch Crescent
Anglesea.


Bellbrae

Bellbrae Uniting Church
Cnr School and Anglesea Roads
Bellbrae.

Torquay

Torquay Uniting Church
27 Anderson Street
Torquay.

Bookroom and Brick A Brac at Bellbrae

 Bellbrae Op Shop
and Book Room

Ph: (03) 5261 5139
E: bellbraeopshop@gmail.com
Opening Times

Thursday, Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-1pm
Tuesday sorting: 1pm-4:30pm
Helpers are very welcome

The Minister's Desk – Rev Suzie Castle

In this week's gospel reading, Jesus decides to spend the last of his time leading up to Holy week with his friends in a place called Bethany. Towns usually have meaning behind their name. Geelong derived its name from the local Wathaurong Aboriginal name for the region, Djillong, "tongue of land or peninsula". Town names tell of themselves. The Beth in Bethany means house. Bethel means house of God, Bethesda house of fish, Bethlehem house of bread and Bethany, house of the afflicted. Pastor Rachel May of Boulevard United Methodist Church in Richmond, Virginia says: "In Jesus' time, Bethany was a town for the poor and the sick. One week out from Palm Sunday and this is who Jesus chooses to spend this precious time. Jesus is 'doing' life with a resurrected Lazarus, a busy Martha and a devoted Mary. They spend time together over a meal, that has no doubt taken hours to prepare, and there is conflict regarding inappropriate behaviour and the cost of spending oil upon Jesus rather than on the poor. Jesus reminds us that we will always have the poor with us but won't always have him. We will always have the poor with us and as long as we do, we are to be here for them because they are us. We don't need to neglect them in order to devote ourselves to God. In this one house in Bethany, there is a place for disciples betraying their Lord and disciples trying to honour him. In one house, under one roof, hard questions are asked, motives are questioned, piety and poverty is the topic of conversation. Friends, this is us".

This is us, in all our mess and magnificence. In our faithfulness and faithlessness, we are God's people under one roof, in one house, wrestling with our own afflictions and opinions and life. This is us, flourishing in and of ourselves regardless of that which weighs heavy upon us. This is us, making decisions on behalf of Christ Jesus whose body we occupy and represent. This is us, vested with the responsibility to care for the poor and make decisions that helps others flourish in their life.

We need to make a decision regarding the use of the Church buildings for Same Gender Marriage. While it is a decision that is made by Church Council, it is a decision that needs to be entered into by all of us prayerfully and with Christ at the centre. Aireys Inlet presents a way to bring 'us' under one roof to listen, wrestle with and search for what Jesus is saying to 'us', the saints and sinners, the pious and the poor. I know that today our time seems costly, but time spent together is priceless. Giving of ourselves to explore, listen and seek Christ is devotion. I ask that you attend the theological conversation regarding marriage with me because I like the 'us' we are.

Coastal Calendar for April 8th-14th

Tues 9th	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 9th	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Thurs 11th	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
Sat 13 th	Theological Discussion on Marriage	2:00pm

Coastal Calendar for April 15th-21st

Tues 16th	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 16th	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Wed 17th	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
Thurs 18 th	Torquay MessyChurch	10:30am-12:00pm
Thurs 18 th	Anglesea SPAM	6:00pm
Thurs 18 th	Passover meal	6:00pm

WHAT'S ON THE COAST

LINKED/ECUMENICAL PASSOVER MEAL AND TENEBRAE SERVICE

This special service is only 10 days away now. Could each congregation please consult within their community to access Tickets. Tuesday 17th is the LATEST for numbers attending please.

The Maundy Thursday Passover meal is on April 18th at 6:00pm in the Community Centre of the Star of the Sea Retirement Village. There is off street parking available on Headland Drv but if anyone needs a lift to the door let Suzie know. On the menu will be roasted lamb wraps with salad followed by apple pie. We are very grateful to Alan Harper, John Russell and Harry Wendt's offer to roast the lamb. The kitchen is fully equipped in the community centre and can seat up to 180 people comfortably. Which is good news seeing as 21 of our Anglican friends are joining us. Tickets are available for purchase this Sunday after worship for \$12 a head.

This will be followed by a Tenebrae service (otherwise known as the service of Shadows) which ends in silence and darkness as we journey towards Good Friday. Please note the space will be darkened rather than dark to prevent falls or trips. For further details on the event or to participate in the service, or if you wish to help in food preparation and serving, please contact Suzie.

BELLBRAE

Surf Coast Arts Trail Contributors needed

Calling crafters, painters, bakers and willing helpers.

Bellbrae is inviting anyone in our parish who would like to join us and participate in the Surf Coast Arts Trail on August 10th and 11th. This has become an annual event on our calendar, which has developed friendships and raised money for our linked congregations. We are calling for submissions from artists and crafters to exhibit and/or sell their work. We also invite people who would like to sell crafts and cakes. Space is limited and entries need to be in to John Adams by April 9th. This year we are waiving the exhibition fee in exchange for a few hours of your time serving in the op-shop or book room. We are also looking for volunteers to do two-hour stints between 10am and 4 pm on both days. If you would like to be involved please contact John on 0431920806 or email: waytoolongtobeawebsite@yahoo.com

Newsletter mailout – We are establishing an email data base for the newsletter. If this is the way you would prefer to receive your church communications each week, please let us know at newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com. This move helps lessen our footprint on the environment as well as monetary cost to the church.

AIREYS INLET

Early this year, the decision of the Assembly of the Uniting Church to allow ministers the right to conduct Same gender marriages was upheld. Our minister, Suzie, indicated there will be time offered for a theological conversation on marriage before individual Church Councils make the decision whether same gendered couples will be welcome to be married in their church buildings.

The Aireys Inlet Church Council reported to the November meeting of Linked Council that they would like to sponsor a forum for the Surf Coast Congregations to open this subject up for discussion. This was supported by Linked Council.

We are mindful that this is a subject on which our members will have widely differing opinions, all based on our understanding of scripture and our Christian beliefs. The idea is to promote an open, respectful and informed discussion that will assist each Church Council to reach a consensus decision that will sit comfortably with their congregation.

The first theological conversation will lead and facilitated by Rev Dr Geoff Thompson on **Saturday the 13th April at 2.00pm at the Anglesea Church.** Geoff is our Associate Professor in systematic theology at the VicTas Synod Pilgrim Theological College. His research has focused on Karl Barth, the functions of doctrine in the church and the theology of the Uniting Church (especially the Basis of Union). Current research is on the relationship between the doctrine of creation and contemporary discussions of sexuality and gender. Geoff blogs about systematic theology and the theology of the Uniting Church at www.xenizonta.blogspot.com.au To see further credentials: <https://pilgrim.edu.au/about-pilgrim/faculty/research-profile-geoff-thompson/>

Please put this date in your calendar and do your best to attend this important event in the life of your Church.

Following this conversation, there will be discussion forums offered over a period of time, so everyone has the opportunity to engage and reflect. For example, Rev Sue Townsend (an Aireys Inlet “swallow” and worship leader) is available to lead and facilitate a follow-up workshop further exploring a theological understanding of same gender relationships.

ANGLESEA

Can you help with watering the Church garden one of three days per week? Please let John Balderstone know and a roster will be formed Saturday 27th April at 9.30 is a Working Bee please keep this date free.

Lent Event 2019 is themed *Live Simply* which is found on the website. <https://www.lentevent.com> Donations to assist the work of Uniting World through this link as well the **Lent Event** information booklet available from your church.

Minister Dates for Leave

2019 holidays - June 17th - 30th and September 2nd - 8th (3 weeks)

2019 study leave - September 30-October 6

Our Fire Plan

No Church activities will take place on any day declared **EXTREME** or **CODE RED**. **This includes worship services.**

Contributions

Contributions for the newsletter to

newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com **Deadline Thursday 05:00pm.**