

Surfcoast Uniting Churches



Lectionary Readings

Easter 4

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Rev 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18
Ps 148
Rev 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Sunday Worship Services

Today

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

Next Week

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Suzie Castle
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Torquay	9:30	Rev Bernie Long
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Bernie Long

Minister's Desk

There have been two recent deaths that has given me pause for thought. Author, theologian, social influencer Jean Vanier died at the age of 90. Jean opened the church to a new vision of what it means to be a community of people gathered by the love of God; his radical inclusion; his capacity to help us all see one another as children of God—no matter how we might look—will be a lasting gift to the church. In his last message, Jean said: "I am deeply peaceful and trustful. I'm not sure what the future will be, but God is good and whatever happens it will be the best. I am happy and give thanks for everything. My deepest love to each one of you." *referencing the Uniting Church Queensland Synod.*

On Saturday, May 4th, author Rachel Held Evans passed away at the age of 37. For the last ten or so years, Rachel had been a significant voice within the (ex)evangelical Christian community. My friend Harlee Cooper said of her passing: "Rachel Held Evans has, and will continue to be through her writing, a significant mentor in my faith. She helped create a space for me and countless others to hold our faith and doubt side by side. In standing with the marginalised and challenging the wider church's position on things like LGBTQI inclusion and the place of women in the church. Rachel was courageous but there was always a grace about the way she went about offering her gift. Rachel has shown me that there is salvation in having the courage to yield to God and stand with the other and for that I am eternally grateful."

I was introduced to both Jean and Rachel as the heroes to Christian misfits and greatly valued the influence they have had on myself and so many around the world. In this current time of distrust towards the Church as well as social media and reality TV saturation, I have wrestled with how many different ways we personally see the Church and our responsibilities to it.


Cont...

12th May 2019

Minister

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Days off: Wed & Sat

Congregation Information

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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

I wrestle with how we present to a grieving; disillusioned and often hostile public having heard the abuse "Church leaders" have perpetrated on children. I know who we are meant to be to each other but wonder if we have ever achieved God's vision for his Body. I think about all these things because it's helpful, valuable to be stretched in faith and theology. Maybe to stop thinking and wondering is to stop growing. But that doesn't make sense when Jesus represents new life to us. Every day we awake we have new opportunities and new experiences. For myself, it's like life resurrects every single day and every single day I believe Jesus presents me with a renewal of faith and hope through my relationship with him. I believe he offers you exactly the same and some of the places it can be found is in the sacraments and when we come together in worship, He is there when we hear the Gospel and when we pray (privately and communally). I guess the question I ponder this week is how do we share this relationship with the misfits, the marginalised and the empty? Because it reminds us of what hope looks like, this week's final word goes to Rachel who struggled with doubt, faith and different theological approaches to God and Church:

"What finally brought me back to the church, after years of running away, wasn't the lattes or the skinny jeans, but the sacraments such as baptism and communion. Church attendance may be dipping, but God can survive the Internet age. After all, He knows a thing or two about resurrection." #becauseofRHE

Peace be with you,
Rev Suzie Castle

Coastal Calendar for May 13th – May 20th

Tues 14 th	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 14 th	Anglesea Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Tues 14 th	Anglesea Aged Care	10.30am
Thurs 16 th	Anglesea SPAN	9:30am
Thurs 16 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am
Fri 17 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am

Coastal Calendar for May 21th – May 27th

Tues 21 st	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 21 st	Anglesea Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Wed 22 nd	Anglesea Adult Fellowship	1:30pm
Thurs 23 rd	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am
Fri 24 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am

WHAT'S ON THE COAST

The Geelong Chorale presents a spectacular program of music for double choir, brass ensemble and organ, featuring music from the Renaissance to the present day. Tickets \$25. Try Booking or at the door.

This concert for the Music at the Basilica, Windfire Music Festival May 10 to 26, offers a wealth of amazing concerts and recitals including: Music of Hildegard de Bingen Sat 11th May at the Basilica at 7.30pm, The Sublime Mozart Sun 19th May at Geelong Grammar Chapel and Music Hall at 3.00pm; and the Festival Closing Concert (Massed Choirs) at the Basilica on Sunday 26th May at 3.00pm. See www.musicatthebasilica.org.au

Minister Dates for Leave

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

2019 study leave - September 30-October 6

Newsletter mail out – 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.

Newsletter Contributions send to newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com
Deadline Thursday 5:00pm.