

Surfcoast Uniting Churches



Lectionary Readings

Easter 5

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

Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15
Ps 67
Rev 21:10, 22
John 14:23-29

Sunday Worship Services

Today

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

Next Week

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Kevin Yelverton
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Kevin Yelverton
Torquay	9:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Suzie Castle

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.


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19th May 2019

Minister

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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 20th – May 26th

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

Coastal Calendar for May 27th – June 2nd

Mon 27 th	Torquay Dine-Out Lunch	12:00pm
Tues 28 th	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 28 th	Anglesea Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Thurs 30 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am
Fri 31 st	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am

WHAT'S ON THE COAST

Anglesea

The May meeting of Anglesea's Afternoon Fellowship will be held at the Church on Wednesday 22nd of May at 1.30 pm. The item for Concern this Month is Breakfast Cereals.

Uniting

The staff and volunteers of Uniting Barwon would like to thank all the congregations of the Uniting Churches in the Geelong, Bellarine and Surf Coast regions for their support during **2018**. Food, clothing, material aid and financial assistance has contributed to the Emergency Relief and Christmas Programs resulting in the distribution of –

Food Vouchers	\$54,727
Food in Kind	\$48,459
Clothing & Material Aid	\$20,450
Christmas Hampers	396
Toys - 1350 given to	289 children
Client visits	2945

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