



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

## Lectionary Readings

### **ADVENT 4 December 22nd**

Isaiah 7: 10-16  
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1: 1-7  
Matthew 1: 18-25

### **Christmas 1 December 29th**

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

## SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

### **This Sunday 22nd December**

**Anglesea:** Rev Margaret Russell 9:00  
**Also BLUE CHRISTMAS ECUMENICAL @ 4pm**  
**Airey's Inlet:** Suzie by Video 10.30  
**Torquay:** Rev Suzie Castle 9.30  
**Bellbrae:** Rev Suzie Castle 11.00

**Christmas Day 25th December See notice on Left**

### **Next Sunday 29th December**

**Anglesea:** Rev Bernie Long 9:00  
**Airey's Inlet:** Rev Susan Townsend 10.30  
**Torquay:** Rev Kenneth Ralph 9.30  
**Bellbrae:** Rev Kenneth Ralph 11.00

**22nd December 2019**

### **Minister: Rev Suzie Castle**

Sunday to Tuesday  
Thursday & Friday  
M: 0421 023 197

E: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)

### **Congregation Contact Information**

Ph: (03) 5261 2369  
P.O. Box. 536 Torquay. 3228 VIC.

### **Aireys Inlet**

**CHRISTMAS DAY @ 10.30am**

St Aidan's Church  
29 Great Ocean Rd, AireysInlet.  
[aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com)

### **Anglesea**

**CHRISTMAS DAY @ 9am**

Trinity Uniting Church  
Murch Crescent. Anglesea.

### **Bellbrae**

**CHRISTMAS EVE @ 11pm**

Bellbrae Uniting Church  
School & Anglesea Rds Bellbrae.

### **Torquay**

**CHRISTMAS DAY @ 9am**

Torquay Uniting Church  
27 Anderson Street Torquay

## **From the Christmas Bowl reflection.**

One of the central tenants of the Christian faith is that love is a person, Jesus the Messiah, a baby born in a feeding trough who became the salvation of the world. And yet, our faith is horribly diminished if we merely see the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God's love, as some sort of historical event, rather than a call to faith.

The Christian faith must resist all sentimentalised attempts to keep Jesus as a baby, confined to his manger, helpless and reliant, and instead draw attention to the life and teachings of Christ – a demonstration of God's love for all the world to see. The love that Jesus teaches is not an emotion or a feeling or even a value or attitude – it is instead a verb.

Love is something we do. It is concrete, not abstract (Luke 10:25-37), it is visible not hidden (Luke 8:16-18), it is confronting not comfortable (Matthew 5:38-48). And so, in response to the teachings of Christ, Act for Peace partners with communities in the developing world through the provision of food and agriculture, peace-making, education and employment programmes, so that people are empowered and equipped to become the gift of God's love for the world.

Peace be with you  
**Rev Suzie Castle**  
Minister of the Word

**WE GATHER IN LOVE AS THE SPIRIT  
MOVES AMONGST US.**



[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Check our website regularly!**

## CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

**Love is the theme of the Fourth Sunday in Advent.** Projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help find loving support for people, particularly those undergoing great hardships.

Our focus this Sunday is on the lives of refugees who have fled from the destruction in Syria and are now living in tent cities in Jordan. Your gift can help families in these places to find the strength to carry on.

Envelopes are now available and you are invited to make your gift at any time or to be put aside to make a special part of the offering on Christmas Day. You can mail your gift directly to Act For Peace. You can also pass on an envelope to a friend.

May we continue to generously support this appeal as we have done in the past.

### A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FLED SYRIA

We pray for Syrian refugees in Jordan

We can only glimpse their despair facing a future destroyed by conflict and violence.

We barely comprehend the experience of raising a family in temporary shelters for years.

We cannot fathom that nearly six million people have fled Syria, nor the six million who have been internally displaced in Syria, and have lost their homes and livelihoods.

Be with these people.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Amen



Here's a pic of the youth from last Friday nights gathering at Eastern Beach



Enthusiastic singers enjoying the Carols in the Pub on Wednesday.



## Sammy Stamp makes Something from Nothing

**Sammy Stamp** continues this tradition, proving the long-term efficacy of this approach. For more than 30 years, volunteers have gathered to collect, trim, sort and package **stamps** received from **Uniting Church** members and synod employees. The **stamps** are sold and the money directed to various programs connected to the **church**.

**SO this Christmas remember to cut all the stamps from the many Christmas cards you receive and bring them to church!**

BOOK ROOM & BRIC A BRAC AT  
BELLBRAE

CONTACT: Ph: (03) 5261 5139 OR

**We are open throughout Christmas and January  
except for public holidays.  
OPEN BOXING DAY!**

### DIARY DATES : December & January

**24th: Christmas Eve at BELLBRAE 11pm**

**31st: NEW YEARS EVE 6pm**

**Long Table LINK gathering , @ Elephant  
Walk in Torquay; BYO everything—table,  
chairs, food and fellowship.**

**11th January: Anglesea Annual Fete  
8.30am to afternoon**

EACH WEEK WE LIST MEMBERS FROM OUR COMBINED CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CARE (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)

TORQUAY: Pauline and Neil SHINKFIELD

TORQUAY: Peter and Robyn SOULSBY

TORQUAY: Jane and Barry SKELTON

TORQUAY: David and Carol STEED



**YOUR NEWSLETTER** can be delivered to your INBOX every Friday, just email us to be included.

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS** and all queries to: [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm