



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

21st June 2020

Worship together is available via video services on our website each Sunday from 9:00am  
[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

Bellbrae is worshipping Live on Zoom at 11:00am Sundays  
Airey's Inlet is Live on Zoom at 1:30pm Sunday

*Minister: Rev. Suzie Castle*

Contact Suzie on M: 0421023197 or [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)

Leave days: Saturday and Wednesday

*Lord, you are always there  
waiting for me.  
May I never be too busy to  
find time to spend in your presence.*

We are all invited to a winter celebration service:  
**Geelong Region Uniting Church Celebration Service**  
on Zoom ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us))  
at 10am on Sunday 21st June 2020

Join Zoom Meeting with the following ID number  
**Meeting ID: 984 7236 5575**

**2020 YEAR  
OF WELCOME**

Refugee Council  
of Australia

Join an official Refugee Week event today!

## Lectionary Readings:

### Pentecost 3 June 21st

Genesis 21: 8-21  
Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6: 1b-11  
Matthew 10: 24—39

### Pentecost 4 June 28th

Genesis 22: 1-14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6: 12-23  
Matthew 10: 40-42

**Beaut Beanies** will be meeting again on Tuesday 23 June and on following Tuesday mornings from 10 am to noon. Their present Torquay venue is the home of Claire Crameri where they will observe social distancing. Any newcomers wishing to join in should ring Claire on 0417 602 071. We are doing a variety of knitting including rugs, teddies, and socks. Many thanks



to our knitting friends who have added to our stock of these special comforters.

There is a **NEW Surf Coast Linked Congregation Directory** for everyone to use. Let Robyn Harper know if you need a paper copy or would like an email link to download and print your own. Please dispose of the old directory carefully.

## *Uniting Barwon Emergency Relief* is OPEN

Offering many services including food and food vouchers, clothing & household items, no-interest loans and housing.

Use these telephone numbers to access local services:

GROVEDALE: 4210 1100, NORLANE: 5278 8492 & WINCHELSEA: 0419535490

Donations of food and toiletries are still being collected for UNITING. They need liquid soap, laundry powder, soups, toothpaste and brushes. No more tinned goods at this stage thank you. Please deliver to Robyn & Alan Harper at 53 Cowrie Road, Torquay.



Weather note: the **Winter Solstice** is at 7.43 am on Sunday 21st June

This will be the shortest day of the year.

Winter 2020 ends 93 days later on 22nd September when it will be Spring!



It's nearly EOFY— and your donation to the UNITING WORLD tax-time appeal will be combined with funding from the Australian Government to reach more people. UNITING commits to raising \$1 for every \$5 they can access from the government. That means **your gift before June 30 can go up to six times further** in the fight against poverty and COVID-19!

Donate at <https://fundraise.unitingworld.org.au/actnow702>  
Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. [aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com)

**Bellbrae:** Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

**Torquay:** Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

**BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM** :Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

**NOTE: All our churches are currently closed as per COVID 19 restrictions**

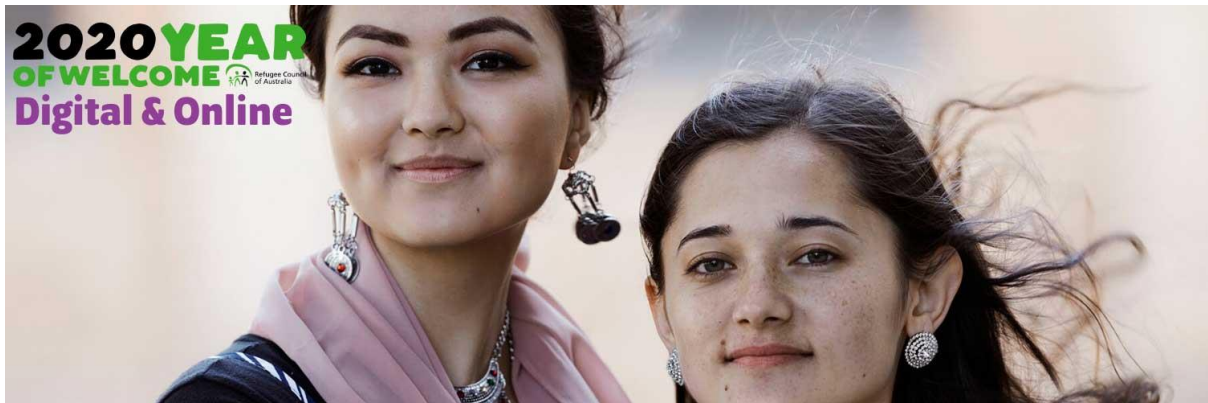
## Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to the congregation account :

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403 Please add notes in the deposit area to identify your congregation:

Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

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

## Key information about the experience of being a refugee



For more information about refugees and people seeking asylum, visit the Refugee Council of Australia website: [www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)

### Why do people become refugees?

Until 1951 there was no commonly accepted term for people fleeing persecution. People who fled their country were known as stateless people, migrants or refugees. Different countries treated these people in different ways. Following the mass migrations caused by the Second World War (particularly in Europe) it was decided that there needed to be a common understanding of which people needed protection and how they should be protected.

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (commonly known as the Refugee Convention), to which Australia is a signatory, defines a refugee as:

Any person who owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.

The important parts of this definition are:

- The person has to be outside their country of origin
- The reason for their flight has to be a fear of persecution
- This fear of persecution has to be well founded (i.e. they must have experienced it or be likely to experience it if they return)
- The persecution has to result from one or more of the five grounds listed in the definition
- They have to be unwilling or unable to seek the protection of their country

The Refugee Convention definition is used by the Australian Government to determine whether our country has protection obligations towards asylum seekers. If an asylum seeker is found to be a refugee, Australia is obliged under international law to offer protection and to ensure that the person is not sent back unwillingly to their country of origin.



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. Its purpose is to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of refugees and seek lasting solutions to their plight.

### **What is the difference between a person seeking asylum, a refugee and a migrant?**

The terms 'refugee', 'person seeking asylum' and 'migrant' are often used interchangeably, particularly in the media. However, there are important distinctions in their definitions.

A **migrant** is someone who chooses to leave their country to seek a better life. They choose where they migrate to and they are able to return whenever they like.

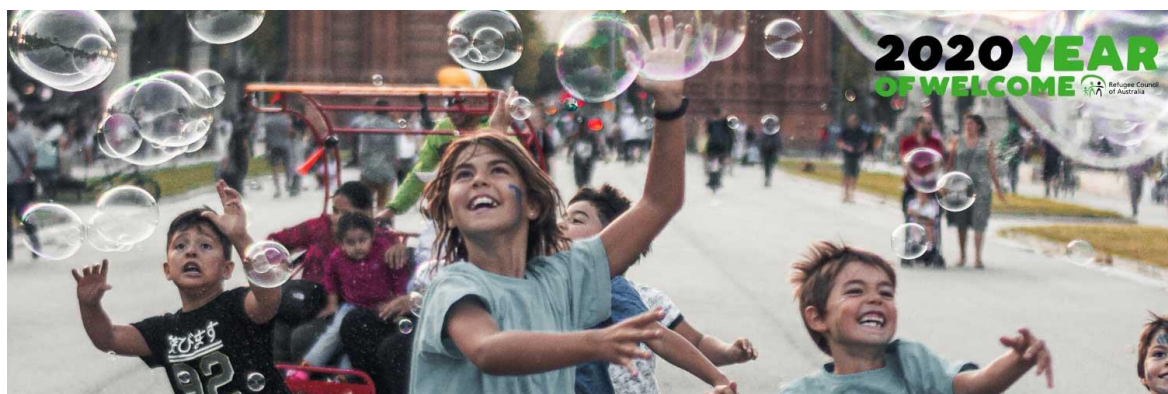
**Refugees** are forced to flee from their country and cannot return unless the situation that forced them to leave improves. Some are forced to flee without any warning; many have experience torture and trauma. The motivating factor for refugees is safety and protection from persecution and human rights abuse, not economic advantage.

A **person seeking asylum** is a person who is seeking protection as a refugee and is still waiting to have his/her claim assessed. Every refugee has at some point been seeking asylum.

**Refugees have certain rights** as set out in the Refugee Convention, which all signatory countries must respect. The most important of these is the principle non-refoulement, which prohibits the forcible return of a refugee to a situation where their life or freedom may be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

The Refugee Convention also stipulates that refugees should not be penalised for entering a country without prior authorisation if they are fleeing from danger and present themselves to authorities. Hence, refugees have a lawful right to enter a country for the purposes of seeking asylum, regardless of how they arrive or whether they hold valid travel or identity documents. The Convention also contains guidance about recognition of civil rights and access to employment, education and the legal system.

Refugees are able to apply for nationality of their country of residence (or another) after meeting residence requirements. In Australia, if you hold have a permanent protection visa, you can apply for Australian citizenship after two years of permanent residence.



All information and photographs are available on [www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)