

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

26th December 2021 Edition 149

**Rev. Suzie Castle** : m: 0421023197 e: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)

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

Services can be found online at above website.

Regular Worship service times are:

Airey's Inlet @ 9.30 am

Torquay: @ 9.30am

Bellbrae @11:00am



*We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past present, and emerging. Find out more at [www.wadawurrung.org.au](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au).*

**May the gifts of Christmas - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love fill your hearts this Christmas.  
Blessings to you all from the Newsletter girls, Tricia and Jane**

## CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

On Christmas Day we light the Christ Candle in recognition that in Jesus the true light has come into the world.

Helping to share this light is part of the work of Act For Peace through the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Our focus this day is the bringing of light into the lives of Ethiopia's urban refugees. Women and girls are among the thousands of refugees arriving in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa in urgent need. Through the Christmas Bowl, you will bring lifesaving care to urban refugees like Esther and her family, who bravely walked three days and nights without sleep to reach safety. They'd escaped violence in their home country. But in the refugee camp, conditions were dire. Esther and her family spent months without enough water or food. Medical care was almost non-existent and Esther's young daughter became too sick to eat or move.

Because of their circumstances, Esther and her family were moved to Addis Ababa. There our local partner, The Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC), supports the most marginalised refugees. Many are women and girls who are survivors of gender based violence. Others are living with chronic illness or a disability, and in need of specialised medical care to survive. Sadly, the COVID-19 crisis has created more hardship for urban refugees and further strained DICAC's resources.

You can help by making your gift to the Christmas Bowl Appeal through the available envelopes. This can be your offering on Christmas Day, or you can mail your gift directly to Act For Peace.

Let us continue to generously support this appeal.

# Christmas is worshipping together at the Surfcoast Uniting Churches

[www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au)

Friday Dec 24th: 11pm @ Bellbrae

Saturday Dec 25th: 9.30am @Torquay

9:30am at Aireys Inlet

Sunday Dec 26th: 9:30am Aireys

9:30am Torquay

11:00 am Bellbrae



## Lectionary Readings

December 25th– Christmas Day	December 26th– Christmas 1
Is 9:2-7	1 Sm 2:18-20, 26
Ps 96	Ps 148
Tit 2:11-14	Col 3:12-17
Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	Lk 2:41-52

**Christmas Day**

**Merry Christmas!**

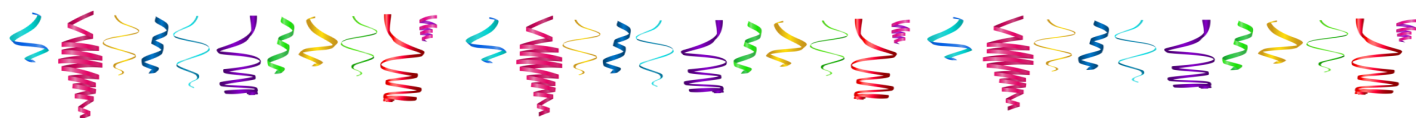
Thousands of refugees are arriving in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, after fleeing conflict in their home countries. Our local partner provides care for women and girls who have survived gender-based violence and those who need specialised medical care. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping support people to overcome the challenges and trauma they've faced, and live life in safety and dignity. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Stars shone brightly at the Torquay Carol Service with special appearances by angels, Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus, and of course the Stars. It was an evening of beautiful singing, laughing, and smiling children doing things that children do!

The unexpected happens when angels are involved!



**Let's celebrate together to say farewell to 2021 and hello to 2022.** Everyone is welcome to Oak Tree Place for an extravaganza **New Year's Eve** get together. There will be games tables set up for those inclined, a fire pit for relaxed conversation, Finska for the athletic throwers and plenty of good will and music. We suggest you bring a plate to share for the Super Supper Smorgasbord which will be shared at 9.30/10ish, allowing early birds to head home as needed. BYO drinks (of any kind), Coffee & Tea will be available. 7.30pm start. Children and visitors welcome.

Email the Newsletter team with any questions.

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**Thank you!**

In a world that often feels divided, you've come together with churches across Australia to stand alongside those uprooted by conflict and disaster. Thank you for standing with Act for Peace's local partners to bring practical care – as well as hope, peace, joy, love and light – to people in urgent need around the world. By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

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<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet.  
**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, Bellbrae

Bunnings BBQ will now be on January 15th... More info to follow with notices to sign up for shifts at Torquay Church.

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