

# The Westerly



PPW& PWV Newsletter No.30 – 21st April 2022



## Life Changing Joy of Easter

Rev. Jeanne Beale (Deacon)

**The life changing joy of Easter Sunday** - in order to understand it, first I needed to gain an appreciation of the person Jesus by engaging with the Gospel stories. Out of which, I arrived at a belief in the Divinity of Jesus the Messiah. This enabled a preparedness to enter into the Easter story and receive the gift of God's Grace in the depth of my being; allowing me to forgive myself for past hurts - a life changing experience in my mid 20's.

Over the past 26 years of ministry, I have tried to create opportunities for others to arrive at the life changing power of the Easter Message.

In Torquay, for Maundy Thursday, we began with a revisit to the upper room and the last supper, then followed the journey of betrayal, the anguish and arrest in the garden, the humiliation and mockery of the trial, Peter's denial, the brutal beating of Jesus and His sentence to death. All of this reminding us of our human frailties: betrayal, abandonment, denial, fear, judgement, ability to be swayed to stay safe or protect face, weakness and wickedness. With this human frailty in mind, Jesus still broke the bread and shared the cup of the new covenant of God's Grace (God's unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness). On Good Friday (still in Torquay) we recalled how Jesus took upon himself the powers of death and enacted atonement for the sins of the world and sealed the new covenant with his blood. But there was more for us to understand about our God of Grace.

On Easter Sunday (this time at Keilor UC) recalling the resurrection of Jesus, what a great celebration of God's Love! Also revealing two more realities: ***There is more after this life, and on the other side of great suffering and grief, there is new life!***



Photo: Jane Skelton - Maundy Thursday

The movement from the table to the empty tomb lets us all know that we all are precious in God's eyes, loved for who we are (despite our human frailties). When we can own this truth, we no longer need to judge ourselves and thereby, less inclined to judge others and more likely to share God's love - and by this shall people know that we are Christ's disciples.

## Easter Joy

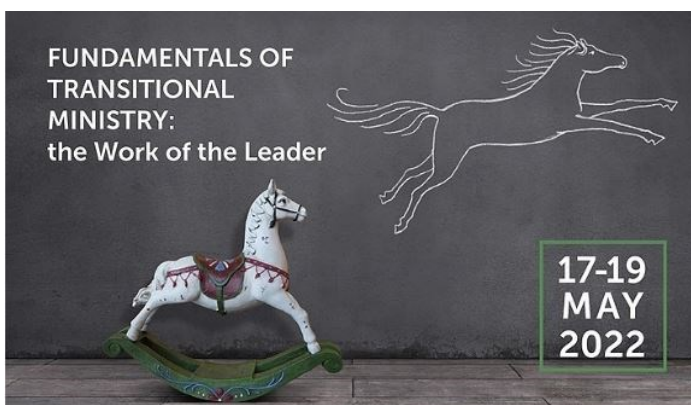
# Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTCHER (DEACON AT SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

**Have you ever longed for the simple life?** Or been caught in a fantasy of moving to where life would be slower, easier, better? “I know what would make me happier”, says Brian, “living on a farm. With chickens, and a big wood fire”. The patients sitting near him nod enthusiastically, “Yes!” says Cassie, “Away from the noise and the stress! I don’t need much”, she adds wistfully.

Of course, the problem with this idyllic image is that whenever we move, we take ourselves with us, along with all the noise and stress that comes with our very human existence. In fact, without the distractions of modern life at our fingertips, we may find “the quiet life” is very noisy indeed as we’re forced into a closer relationship with our Selves, “warts and all”.

Sharing in the journey of Jesus’ life and death is hard work. In walking with Jesus, we allow ourselves to be stripped of everything: titles, power, accolades, and an easy way out. Real sacrifice is painful. There is loss and grief, but there is also the promise of resurrection. **The “yes!” to new life in the love of God that is longing to live through us.**



**When:** Tues-Thurs 17-19 May, 9.30am-5pm

**Cost:** \$300 metro, \$260 non metro

**Where:** Centre for Theology and Ministry;  
29 College Crescent, Parkville VIC 3052

**Registrations close 12 May 2022**

This is a three-day program designed to give you an introduction to the key concepts and practices of ministering with congregations and agencies in times of transition (isn't that most churches, especially since the upheavals brought by the covid pandemic? *How do we help communities navigate uncertainty and change?*). While FTM part 1 is a standalone program, it is also the first phase of training that leads to being qualified as an Intentional Interim Minister. Thus, it is useful for anyone in lay or ordained ministry who is dealing with change, transition and new opportunities, and also for those exploring a call to Intentional Interim Ministry. The FTM will be lead by Rev Fran Barber (Continuing Education Coordinator) at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Melbourne. FTM Part 2 : online August 9 & 16; in person, Aug 23-24 @ CTM.

# Diving deep into diversity...

**Sacred Edge Festival / April 29th—May 1st 2022 / QUEENSCLIFF**

**Sacrededge Festival is just around the corner, 30+ musicians, artists and presenters across the weekend 'under one roof' at Unitingqueenscliff.**

This is our 7th Festival, and we're feeling delighted and very excited to welcome you back after two years of covid cancellations and postponements. Diving Deep Into Diversity, the Festival's themes of First Nations, Refugees, LGBTIQ, Earth & Ocean, and Wellbeing are explored and celebrated through Music, Stories, Art, Panels, Workshops, Food, and All-Age activities & experiences.

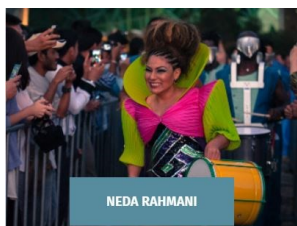
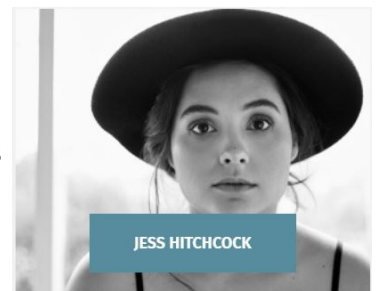
We have lots of different ticket options covering single days/nights as well as the whole weekend. Accompanied children 15 years and under are free.

Here's the link for Festival Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/BGOJM>

You can view the line up and program via these links. Sacrededge [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)  
Sacrededge website links to the [line up](#) and [more](#).

**JESS HITCHCOCK:** Award-winning opera singer and songwriter Jess Hitchcock is an Indigenous performer, composer and singer-songwriter with family origins from Saibai in the Torres Straits and Papua New Guinea. Over the last 6 years Jess has performed with Kate Miller-Heidke, Paul Kelly, Tina Arena, and most recently as part of Bangarra's astonishing new work *Wudjang: Not the Past* which combines poetry, spoken storytelling and live music with Bangarra's unique dance language. Jess will share her music and stories on-stage at Sacrededge in the Chapel Sat Night 7pm.

[Duet with Paul Kelly \(Every Day My Mother's Voice\)](#) [Duet with Tina Arena \(Sorrento Moon\)](#)



**NEDA RAHMANI:** Neda arrived in Australia as a two-year old refugee and has grown up as the quintessential self-made Aussie musician and bedrock advocate of her music community. Neda will have her Brazilian percussive band "TUMBARUMBA" at Sacrededge for a pulsating performance on Sat evening in the Marquee. She will also lead drumming and percussion workshops during the day.

**CLIMATE PANEL:** We have gathered a diverse group of people together to form a panel and discuss the local, national and global issues around Climate Change from a range of perspectives. Nathan Sclaro (Editor Dumbo Feather), David Karoly (Climate Scientist), Scott Darlow (First Nations), Michael Clarke (Latrobe Univ), and a Queenscliff Climate Action Group member. Together they will discuss the science, the local impacts, the moral dimension, and explore the spiritual questions around change. The Climate Panel gathers on Sat afternoon 2pm. And there is more from David at 12pm, and David & Mike at 3.30pm.

**TRANS & GENDER DIVERSE FAMILIES PANEL:** Three trans and gender diverse adolescents, supported by their families, share the story of their respective journeys. The panel will be facilitated by Ro Allen, Victoria's Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner. *Sunday 12.15pm*. And there is more on Sunday with Ro in conversation with Allie Beckhurst (marine scientist, film-maker and educator). Daniel Witthaus is with us all weekend in his usual and wonderful support role for LGBTIQ+ people and their families. The Dinosaur Squad will be in the kids chill-out space.





## Diving deep into diversity...

**REFUGEE STORIES:** We'll hear stories of heartbreak, hope and incredible courage from Nithi (advocate, founder of Queenscliff Tamil Welcome Feasts), Awale (advocate, poet, storyteller), and Neda (advocate, musician, writer).

**FIRST NATIONS:** Covid has been incredibly difficult for First Nations communities in Australia and around the world. We are glad and very grateful that we can share the weekend with Narana Creations (Indigenous art exhibition in the Chapel), Jess Hitchcock (concert Sat night), Yorta Yorta man Scott Darlow (sharing his music and stories Fri, Sat and Sun), and Thaedora Frangos (facilitating an Indigenous Earth Mindfulness walk on Sunday).

**MUSIC:** An amazing line up of gorgeous musicians Jess Hitchcock, Scott Darlow, Kerry Fields, Aine Tyrrell, Neda Rahmani. PLUS workshops with Neda (Drumming & Percussion) Greg Lorenzutti (Dance) Trish Watts (Choir)

**ART:** Sacrededge Art Exhibition (launched on Sat evening), and weekend activities including mandalas, contemplative art practice, contemplative photography walk, stone carving, climate flags.

**SPACES FOR CONTEMPLATION AND QUIET:** Walk the Ocean Labyrinth in the Park (guided walks, and at any time).

**KIDS:** All-ages entertainment with Nick Dacomb 'Crazy Koala' ( Circus, Toys, Puppets, Stilts), Em Chandler (Magician, Songs, Stories, LGBTIQ+), and the Dinosaur SQUAD.

+ FOOD and MORE!!!

The event will be a fully vaccinated one, so please make sure you are up to date with your vaccination requirements to protect the safety and health of all who attend.



PETER & JENNY BATTEN

### CLIMATE CONCERN CONGRATULATIONS

#### AIRPORT WEST

- Modern style building maximizing the use of light, opened in 2018
- Double glazed windows.
- Lights that turn themselves off.
- Tank installed to supply water to the toilets.
- Garden beds which have native content and do not require extensive watering. (Tanbark mulch placed on top of the beds).
- Blinds in Church / Activity Area to limit the effect of sun and heat.
- Bins sorted for general waste and green waste.

**WE ARE PROUD OF YOU, AIRPORT WEST!**

## World Health – Our Planet needs strong Emissions Reduction Targets

### PPW Climate Action Task Group

We're in a climate crisis, and the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has told us we have only 10 years to take bold, transformative action. Already a heating world is seeing extreme weather events, land degradation and water scarcity which displace people and affect their health. Already mosquitos spread diseases farther and faster than ever before.






**World Health Day on 7 April had the theme “Our Planet Our Health”. We can help our planet and our health by setting and attaining strong emission reduction targets.**

In Victoria the Climate Change Act 2017 legislates for the state to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Premier and the climate minister must also set interim targets for the years 2025 and 2030.

In June 2019 the government tabled advice from an independent panel recommending that emissions be cut from their 2005 levels by 32–39% by 2025 and 45–60% by 2030. The target set in 2021 for the end of 2030 is only 45-50% below 2005 levels. This target gives no chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees and could see the planet shoot past 2 degrees. **To keep warming to 1.5 degrees requires cuts of at least 45–50% by 2025 and 65–80% by 2030.**

**What's the difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees?** The difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees of global warming is the difference between saving the world's coral reefs and losing them, between people adjusting with difficulty to a warmer climate and having millions lose their homes and their lives to extreme weather and rising seas. It's a big difference.

**What will stronger targets mean for Victoria?** These targets will influence every decision made on climate in Victoria for the next ten years. The government will need to announce 'sector pledges' determining how our most polluting sectors – electricity, transport, direct combustion and agriculture – reduce emissions. Stronger targets will mean more investment in renewables, more support for farmers to cut emissions, more public transport, more clean technology and design, and more jobs in clean energy.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? 1.5°C versus 2°C			1.5°C	2°C
	LOSS OF PLANT SPECIES	<b>2x WORSE</b>	8% of plants will lose 1/2 their habitable area	16% of plants will lose 1/2 their habitable area
	LOSS OF INSECT SPECIES	<b>3x WORSE</b>	6% of insects will lose 1/2 their habitable area	18% of insects will lose 1/2 their habitable area
	FURTHER DECLINE IN CORAL REEFS	<b>UP TO 29% WORSE</b>	70% to 90%	99%
	EXTREME HEAT	<b>2.6x WORSE</b>	14% of the global population exposed to severe heat 1 in every 5 years	37% of the global population exposed to severe heat 1 in every 5 years
	SUMMERS WITH NO SEA-ICE IN THE ARCTIC	<b>10x WORSE</b>	At least once every 100 years	At least once every 10 years

The independent panel found that stronger targets for 2030 are the cheapest way to achieve a net zero emissions economy by 2050. They say that every bit of warming matters. Every year matters. Every choice matters. In Victoria, the government has to make a crucial choice with huge long-term implications for our future. With enough community pressure we can make sure it does the right thing.

*Based on an article which first appeared in Environment Victoria News, Issue 32, Spring 2019.*

# Education Events

- April 30th 9:30 pm **Justice and International Mission Convention 2022.**
- April 29th - May 1st **Sacred Edge Festival @Queenscliff UCA**  
**"Diving into Diversity"**
- May 17-19 **Fundamentals in Transition Ministry @ Centre for Theology and Ministry**

