

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :

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(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner:0427 701 276

Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



Sunday 26th February 2023

We acknowledge that we meet and worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

Immersing ourselves in Lent 2023

Lent derives from the Old English word *Lencten*, which simply means the season of spring. (Literally, the days “lengthen”). It is that time of year when, in the Northern Hemisphere, snows melt, the light returns and new foliage begins to bloom.

Nature is alive again! The winter sleep is ended. Just as nature awakens to growth and new life, each Lent season issues a renewed invitation to us to awaken to the mystery of life, the mystery of God, the mystery of love. Just because our seasons don’t match, is no reason to ignore the messages of Lent.

Right here and now, in this present moment of our lives with all its joys, worries, anxieties and fears, Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts. He waits with courtesy. There is no forced entry here, just the invitation, ‘Come apart and rest awhile’ (Mark 6:30).

Will I listen to this invitation? The choice is always ours!

The call to discipleship lies at the heart of the Gospel and the season of Lent beckons to us once again to ‘rend our hearts, not our clothing.’ The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving foster one purpose: that we might bare our hearts before God, and pray that whatever falseness is within us may be removed.

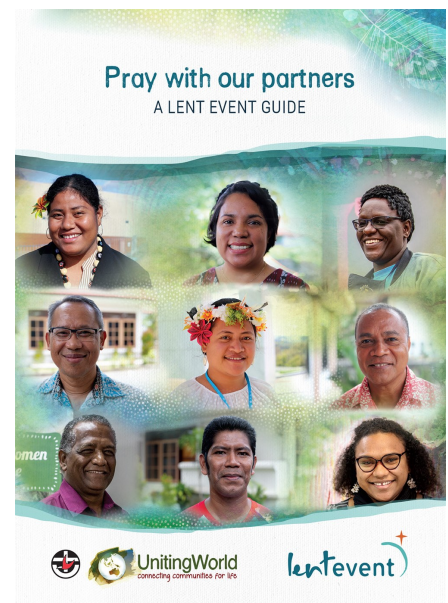
Lent calls us to return to the truth, to re-connect with and centre on Jesus’ life, suffering, death and resurrection. Pondering his life, we look not solely on our personal lives but on our interconnection with the lives of all our brothers and sisters and all creation.

Lent causes us to stop and ask: *Where have I been missing the mark? Where have the connections with self, others, creation and with Jesus become severed? What choices have led to this disconnection? Where am I being called to return to the Lord?*

Lent brings a fresh invitation from Jesus, to put our feet into his footprints and let him lead.



O God, open our lips;
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Blessed are you, Sovereign God;
you brought life out of death
and hope from despair
when you raised our Lord from the grave.
Your Spirit ignites our hearts
with baptismal fire;
you raise us with Christ in newness of life,
inviting us to reflect his glory for ever.
Blessed is God’s holy name.



All resources for Lent as written are found at Lent Event on the Uniting Church website, or at Sacred Space.

Please Note that on Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Risk days the church services on the Surf Coast will be cancelled, and the Op Shop closed.

NB: Newsletter deadline 4pm Thursday. Email: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com. ALL news welcome



Sunday February 26th : Lent 1

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas AV
Bellbrae @ 11am Brian Shaw
Torquay @ 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas

Sunday March 5th: Lent 2

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas
Bellbrae @ 11am Rev Bob Thomas
Torquay @ 9.30am TBC

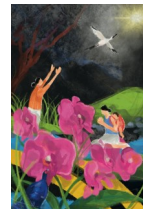


NOTE: All video sermons are available on the Surfcoast website: www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Events this MONTH and beyond

Thursday morning Coffee: at Bomboras in Torquay from 10.30am

It's not too late to join...an ecumenical Lenten Bible Study being held at St Aidan's Church, Aireys Inlet. Every Thursday at 10:30 am. Anglican priest Rev Sharon Valentino will lead the first two studies. Rev Bob Thomas will lead the remaining studies. We will use the Anglican Board of Mission study booklet, *"The Imaginary Doorway"* by Stephen Daughtry. All welcome. For more information contact, celebrant.noni@gmail.com



Pastoral Care Meeting @ Torquay for all interested Tuesday 28th February at 2pm at Oak Tree Place.



Friday 3rd March at 1pm: *World Day of Prayer* service at Torquay Uniting Church. Korea is the feature country for 2023. Afternoon Tea will follow. Please bring a small plate to share.

AGM @ Torquay Congregation will be held after the service on Sunday 26th March. There are vacancies on our Council, and voting papers and further information will be available mid March.

Thank you this week from :

- ◇ The team behind the successful *Flip for a Good Cause Pancake Day* at Aireys Inlet. All money was raised for Barwon Uniting
- ◇ The Bunnings BBQ fundraiser volunteers who raised over \$1,000, some of which will purchase equipment for *Coffee & Kids*.
- ◇ Geoff Genat says a mighty thank you to members across our surf coast churches who have remembered him in their prayers and sent wishes for a speedy recovery after his spinal fusion surgery. All is going well.
- ◇ Thank you from Marilyn Sewell and her family as they grieve for Neil who passed peacefully away on Tuesday 21st. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2010 and has been cared for at Ocean Mist for the last 5 years. A thanksgiving service for Neill will be held on Tuesday 28th February at Bellbrae Uniting Church and all are welcome.



Two of the flippin' good pancake cooks and bottle washers - thanks Jamie & Keith



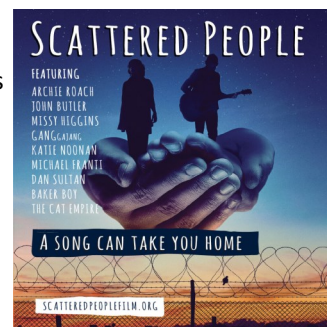
Join in the delight at **Sacred Edge Festival** at Queenscliff from 5th to 7th May. Early bird tickets for the whole weekend : \$169

Volunteers welcome, book tickets soon as we always sell out!

<https://unitingqueenscliff.org.au/sacrededge-festival/>

Would you like to view this 'song' of a movie, as noted in the details about the refugee CRISP program?

You can find it on 10Play or on Paramount Prime.



Thanks to all who are honoring their financial pledges and those who give what they are able, so we may continue to worship and serve our communities. Gifts are valued in electronic or paper format.

Surfcoast Uniting Church.

NAB : BSB: 083-929 & Acc No: 93-009-8403. ADD notes:
Aireys AI3231; Bellbrae BB3228; Torquay TQ 3228

OUR CHURCHES
ON THE SURF-
COAST

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's Inlet.
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
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.