

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :
(Torquay) Jane Skelton
(Bellbrae) Maxine Flakemore
(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner
Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931
Church Office: 03 5261 2369



Sunday 3rd March 2024

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.

Lectionary readings : LENT 3: Exodus 20: 1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25, John 2: 13-22

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be
I go and lie down where the wood drake



rests in his beauty in the water, and
the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with fore-
thought

of grief. I come into the presence of
still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

A Lenten thought: Giving Thanks

If it were the last evening of my life, and I were facing a terrible death, would I think of giving thanks? It's more likely that I'd be a nervous wreck!

If I were faced with thousands of hungry people, and all I had were five loaves and two fish, would I even take the time to be grateful?

I'd probably just panic!

Jesus gave thanks.

That blows my mind.

It's a sign of his boundless trust in the Father.

If you give thanks to the Father in a terribly difficult situation, you obviously trust him enormously.

All Jesus had in his hands was something radically insufficient, but the loving gratitude of Jesus opens the gateway to abundance, because his gratitude enables the Father's generosity to show itself.

If you give thanks when everything around you is falling apart, that act of giving thanks helps you to hold things together, and it helps you to hold yourself together as well.

Excerpted from *The Mindful Our Father* by Thomas J Casey SJ



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024
Friday 1st March

"I beg you ...bear with one another on love."

based on Ephesians Chapter 4

A prayer from the order of service which is available for download as an attachment to this newsletter email or from the Resources tab at the website: <https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>

God of Righteousness, bless us
and make us witnesses of peace and justice.
Open our eyes so that we can see things as you do.
Protect us from all forms of violence,
hurt and revenge.

We pray especially for women who are denied
education and other basic rights.

We pray for women who are abused
and suffer violence. We pray that our churches, as well as
our governments, will create safe places for
women. Help us to raise our voices and use our gifts and

We give thanks that the weather was kind to those who met at the Sunday evening Taizé service at Bellbrae on 25th February. Maxine led with songs, hymns and prayers in faithful Taizé fashion. Dogs and neighbours and friends were made welcome. Bellbrae hopes to make this a regular event. Watch the calendar boxes for more details.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. A Taizé prayer.



Sunday 3rd March

Torquay 9.30am: Worship Team
Bellbrae 11am Worship Team
Aireys Inlet 9.30am : Rev Amanda Nicholas and Holy Communion

World Day of Prayer @ St Theresa's

1pm on Friday 1st March
Elouera Aged Care Service
Thursday 7th March at 2pm
Volunteers to sing & chat welcome.

Sunday 10th March

Rev Amanda Nicholas and Holy Communion
At Torquay 9.30am and Bellbrae 11am
Aireys Inlet 9.30am : Worship Team

We have received some entries for the Climate Action—Banner Caption Competition!

Here they are...

Do you think any are worthy of entering, or do you have another entry to contribute? Email them in!

1. **Don't burn your kids future—STOP Global Warming**
2. **Save Trees or the Earth may take revenge**
3. **The climate is changing and so should we.**
4. **End Global warming before it ends YOU!**
5. **Do something for our planet—plant a tree.**

Who can come up with the catchiest caption? The prize will be a free banner measuring 4000 mm x 1000 mm, valued at \$150

To register for this competition please email Richard Arnold from the Port Phillip West Climate Action Taskgroup: richard50@gmail.com

NOTE: Captions need to be a maximum of eight words.

Entries will be received until Friday 22 March and the winner will be announced on Friday 12 April.

Notes from our Congregations:

Aireys Inlet Congregation invite you to take part in the last few weeks of the Lenten Studies—Thursdays at 10.30am. & don't forget the PUB Lunch on Friday 1st March

Bellbrae enjoyed a strong contingent on a warm evening for the Taizé service on Sunday at 7pm. This will be repeated next month: Sunday 24th or 31st??

Torquay Congregation give notice that they will hold their AGM on Sunday 24th March directly after the morning service.

Nominations for Council members are welcome. Last year's minutes and new nomination forms and details for those providing reports are available this Sunday with details.

Surfcoast Lenten Studies

WHEN: every Thursday at 10.30am for the 6 weeks of Lent.

WHERE: St Aidan's Church, 27 Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet

The study is the Vic.Tas. "Tradition with a Future",

first presented in 2023 by Rev. Mat Harry.

It tackles three areas of the modern church – Worship, Discipleship (Growing in Faith together), and also Mission (through relationships in our local communities, sharing the gospel).

Questions? Contact Noni at aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

What's happening in our wider neighbourhood?

Friday 8th March: International Women's Day

Next Aireys Market—Sunday 10th March 9am to 1pm

15-17th March at Aireys—join the music festival. At the Aireys Pub Beer Garden and admission by ticket only on TryBooking.

Also on Sat 16th March at Torquay—the ONE PLANET Festival. Empowering Communities, Protecting Earth. Free.

Are you collecting the 10c bottles & cans? You can now choose to donate your refund to Torquay Food Aid or another charity of your choice. Check the CDS website or App.

Regular Weekly activities include:

Thursdays at 10.30am Coffee at BOMBORAS on the Torquay Esplanade.

Starts again this week.

Beaut Beanies—10.30am Tuesdays in Torquay church foyer

Coffee & Kids—9.30am every Friday during Term.@ Oak Tree Place (Term 1 has started)

Bellbrae Opshop & Book room open every Friday & Saturday from 10 to 4pm.

We would love extra volunteers if you have 3 hours a month to spare.

Regular Monthly activities include:

Pub Lunch at Aireys—Noon, first Friday of the month (THIS Friday March 1st !)

Monthly Service 2pm at Elouera, - First Thursday (NEXT Thursday March 7th)

Time for a break: the *Prayer Shawl Ministry* will be on hold going forward. We have shawls in reserve but do not have recipients. We will not be buying wool to continue the ministry. Please, if you know of anyone who would appreciate a shawl, let either myself or Margo know as soon as possible.

We would love to continue this ministry, but we can only do it with your help.

Thanks Marilyn 0427 750 36 & Margo 0412 742 117



May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14



Pancake Day Flip for a good cause.



Learn more
unitingvictas.org.au/pancake-day

Uniting

Thank you to all the flippers and servers & pancake eaters on our rescheduled Pancake Day fundraiser. Over \$600 was raised and all proceeds will go to Barwon Uniting's welfare projects. Many thanks also to the Community Bank for their support in cash and pancake eating!

Robin & Heather Dennis are preparing their house and garden for an eventual sale and have many pot plants, lovingly tended over the years to pass on. These will be available for purchase as a contribution to the Trading Table fundraising. The pots will be on the mulch to the left of the Torquay church building from Monday afternoon 4th March.

Pick your pot and pop in a donation to the Trading Table moneybox next Sunday.



Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's Sunday Service at 9.30am
Bellbrae: Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae Sunday Service at 11.00am
Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay Sunday Service at 9.30am

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM : Uniting Church Hall, School Road. Bellbrae
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.

Your Offering for all our churches, programs and outreach is welcome.

Direct Deposit or Cash

BSB:083 929 ACC: 93009 8403

Quote TQ, AI or BB