



# Werribee Uniting Church

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and we gather.

4 May 2025: Easter 3

## A final word

This is an extract from Pope Francis' final sermon on Easter Sunday...

Mary Magdalene, seeing that the stone of the tomb had been rolled away, ran to tell Peter and John. After receiving the shocking news, the two disciples also went out and — as the Gospel says — “the two were running together” (Jn 20:4). The main figures of the Easter narratives all ran! On the one hand, “running” could express the concern that the Lord’s body had been taken away; but, on the other hand, the haste of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John expresses the desire, the yearning of the heart, the inner attitude of those who set out to search for Jesus. He, in fact, has risen from the dead and therefore is no longer in the tomb. We must look for him elsewhere.

This is the message of Easter: we must look for him elsewhere. Christ is risen, he is alive! He is no longer a prisoner of death, he is no longer wrapped in the shroud, and therefore we cannot confine him to a fairy tale, we cannot make him a hero of the ancient world, or think of him as a statue in a museum! On the contrary, we must look for him and this is why we cannot remain stationary. We must take action, set out to look for him: look for him in life, look for him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, look for him in everyday business, look for him everywhere except in the tomb.

We must look for him without ceasing. Because if he has risen from the dead, then he is present everywhere, he dwells among us, he hides himself and reveals himself even today in the sisters and brothers we meet along the way, in the most ordinary and unpredictable situations of our lives. He is alive and is with us always, shedding the tears of those who suffer and adding to the beauty of life through the small acts of love carried out by each of us.

For this reason, our Easter faith, which opens us to the encounter with the risen Lord and prepares us to welcome him into our lives, is anything but a complacent settling into some sort of “religious reassurance.” On the contrary, Easter spurs us to action, to run like Mary Magdalene and the disciples; it invites us to have eyes that can “see beyond,” to perceive Jesus, the one who lives, as the God who reveals himself and makes himself present even today, who speaks to us, goes before us, surprises us. Like Mary Magdalene, every day we can experience losing the Lord, but every day we can also run to look for him again, with the certainty that he will allow himself to be found and will fill us with the light of his resurrection.

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

4 May: Rev. Bruce Watson

11 May: Rev. Ian Pearce

**For Pastoral Care:** Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184 or Margaret Bull: 0417 500 961.

### Bible readings

**This week:** Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

**Next week:** Acts 9:36–43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9–17; John 10:22–30

### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 9.30am Bible Study

**Wednesday:** 1pm UCAF

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group;

5.30pm Health & Fitness;

5.30pm Choral Practice (chapel)

**Saturday:** 7.30am Samoan Health & Fitness

### Rosters 4 May (& 11 May)

**Greetings:** Lauina Levave (Judy & Hamish)

**Audiovisual:** Christian Ropeti-Kilifi (Jacob Lewis)

**Morning Tea:** Lauina Levave  
(Marie Craw & Site Tupua)

**Flowers:** Node Madu (Church)

**Music:** Gina Lee (Asanka Ariyapperuma)

**Prayers:** Ashok Sherwal (Ashok Sherwal)

**Reader:** Emily Metusela (Lyn O'Meara)

### Werribee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

### Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email [office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com) or 0427 812 606.

### Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

### To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

[bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### Samoan service

3rd Sunday, 4pm, in the Church: All welcome.

## Today's service

At the service on this Sunday, 4 May, members of the **Pastoral Care Team & Spiritual Oversight** team will be commissioned for the work of overseeing the pastoral visitation and pastoral care within the life of the congregation.

## UC Adult Fellowship

A reminder that the UCAF meets next Wednesday on 7th May at 1.00pm. All welcome.

## Samoan Youth Easter Camp



On Easter Friday as we celebrated the gift of Life with the crucifixion of our Christ; our Ministry were excited to enter our campsite at Suma Park at Marcus Hill in Geelong. Rev Sani Vaeluaga opened our camp with an articulate and coherent devotion and a deep sharing of the Easter Story that was well received by the Youth. The Ministry was divided into two groups: Alpha and Omega. The parents were just as involved as the young ones, there was an amazing race, talent quests, bible quizzes and debates.

We even had some of our members come down for a visit on Saturday. We were so delighted to have Geoff & Margaret Gook, Bev Lambie and Margaret Bull.

We were blessed to have been able to attend the Wesley UC in Geelong where Rev Tupe Loelu and his congregation welcomed us as we worshipped together on Resurrection Sunday. Our youth performed a reenactment of the story of Easter.

We got to see the growth in our youths as they participated in discussions and even performing their talents.

There were many highlights in their individual reviews of the three days we were so blessed to have, they bonded, delved and learnt more on the message of Easter; the message of HOPE and LOVE, the resurrection that brought new LIFE.

Once again thank you for your prayers and support. (In Christ, Papalii Ron Latu)

### A word from a visitor...

For the Easter weekend the Samoan members of our congregation arranged a Camp in Geelong. The large comfortable Conference Centre they used is part of the Suma Park Winery. It was great to see 28 of our Samoan members including young people and children enjoying

games outdoors as well as billiards, table tennis, Bible study, singing and quizzes. (Bev Lambie)

## Next O.S.L.O.

O.S.L.O Occasional Sunday Lunches Out May 25th. We will be dining at The Brook on Sneydes Rd 12md. Please contact Elaine 0435 998 013 or Lorna 0419 101 766 by Thursday 22nd May for catering numbers. Everyone welcome.

## Werribee Theatre Company

The Werribee Theatre Company, which uses the church hall, has a new play commencing this coming week. Here's their description: "Drinking Habits. It's a lot of fun! Here's what it's about: The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing are in trouble. They are on the verge of being shut down by the Vatican for being 'insignificant', leaving the Sisters to turn to drastic means to survive. Sister Augusta and Sister Philamena are forced to start making sly booze in order to keep their doors open, right under the long and severe nose of their Mother Superior. When the local town starts being flooded with award winning wine, a couple of local reporters approach the convent to sniff out a source. Dressed undercover as Sisters, Fathers and Cardinals, (sometimes all at the same time) these two discover a heartwarming surprise at the end of the scandal. It's full to the brim with goofy characters and implausible fun, this show is sure to fill your chalice."

May 9, 10, 16, 17

All dates - 8pm

May 10 and 17 (Saturdays) - 2pm matinee.

Tickets are \$25 for Adults and \$22 for concession.

Suitable for children aged 12 and over. Mild adult themes.

Tickets are on sale now! Book now to secure your seats.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYMOY>



Last week's happy celebration of baptism