



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.

9 June 2024: Pentecost 3

The dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on the tombstone from beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears

but said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth

and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

“The dash” was submitted by Lorna Hodge, and I invite more readers to submit articles that they have found helpful or of general interest. (Ed.)

A plea for prayer and lament from Micah

Tim Costello, on behalf of Micah, is calling for lament and prayer about the war in Gaza and the terrible loss of life, especially of children. He writes: “At Micah we have been grieved by events that have unfolded in Gaza and Israel over the past nine months. It can be desperately hard to know how to respond. This reality struck home for me yet again last week, and so I wanted to share this call to prayer and lament. I hope it helps you, or at the very least, leaves you feeling less alone with any feelings of grief or despair you may be experiencing. It may also be something helpful to share with others in your church, home group, or community.”

To access the video, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv-X3P29SUc>

Micah Australia is an organisation that empowers Australian Christians to advocate on the most urgent global justice issues facing our world today—extreme poverty, rising conflict, and climate change. (Ed.)

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

9 June: Rev. Lynden Broadstock

16 June: Rev. Ian Pearse

Bible readings

Today: 1 Samuel 8:4–11. 16–20; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1; Mark 3:20–35

Next week: 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13; Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15; 2 Corinthians 5:6–17; Mark 4:26–34

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 11.00am Bible Study & Lunch

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group; 5pm Health & Fitness

Saturday: 7pm Health & Fitness

Rosters 9 June (& 16 June)

Greetings: Margaret B (Node M)

Audiovisual: Paul K (Christian R)

Morning Tea: Mary D & Margaret D (Elaine & Julie R)

Flowers: Jennie K (Rose G)

Music: Gina L (Tracey S)

Prayers: Amelia R (Margaret B)

Reader: Val T (Node M)

Werribee UC on Facebook:

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

Church office

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am–12noon. Phone 97411084 Email

office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter (Editor: Robert Renton)

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at 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 B)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

Samoan service The Samoan language service is held every 3rd Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.



STAN
SATURDAY TAKE AWAY NIGHT

A night for Family Fun

Saturday, June 15
Werribee Uniting Church (Foyer)
From 6:30pm- 9:30pm

- Bring Your Own Drinks
- Bring Dessert to Share
- Bring Your Board Games and Toys
- Bring \$ To Order Takeaway or BYO Dinner

RSVP: Armando: 0423 922 414

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18:20*

A reminder

The "Record of Contact Details" forms which have been distributed in recent weeks are needed urgently.

If you have not returned yours please get it to the Church Office this week or give it to Bev L on Sunday.

Note: Each adult needs to complete a separate form.

Name Tags for those who have completed forms will be available on Sunday. (Bev L Cong. Secretary)

3030 Beach Patrol **TODAY**

We hope you can join us to clean K Road Cliffs TODAY. We will meet in the cliff's carpark K Road Werribee South at 11:30am and the clean will last for 1 hr. Despite being very beautiful & one of the icons of Werribee, K Road Cliffs is sadly one of the most trashed sites we clean. Come prepared for a big clean. Remember to bring your own gloves & water bottle.

Oslo Sunday Lunches Out.



On 23rd of June we will be going to the Racecourse hotel. No seniors meals but the manager has offered us choice of 2 roasts for \$24 or roast with dessert for \$30. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Elaine or Lorna by hursday 20th June for catering.

Australia: a racist country

The ABC journalist Laura Tingle came under intense criticism recently for putting her view at the Sydney Writers Festival that Australia is a racist society. She was rebuked by the head of ABC news, an indication that right-wing powerful people in the Murdoch owned-media are ever a force to be reckoned with.

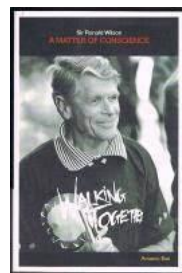
In this week many Australians celebrate Mabo Day, the anniversary of the High Court's decision to reject the legal fiction of *terra nullius* which underpinned the white Europeans claim to ownership by stealing country which had been occupied by the first nations peoples for at least 60 thousand years.

How do we define the term "racism"? My definition would encompass the claim to racial superiority which undergirds the actions of the invaders, the settlers and those who have exploited this country's natural resources without fair recompense to original owners.

For the two hundred and forty years of Australia's existence first as an outpost of colonial England and the through those years of bloody massacres and dispossession of the indigenous first peoples, racism has been evident.

Australia's last massacre of aboriginal people in 1929 was not the last of the country's racism.

During the first 70 years of the nation's existence since Federation, removal of native children from their families was practised as a deliberate government policy to gradually reduce the increased numbers of mixed race children.



The former President of the Uniting Church in Australia's General Assembly, Judge Sir Ronald Wilson (pictured) was commissioner of the Bringing Them Home Report in 2007. Thousands of aboriginal children were separated from their families.

My then wife and I adopted Michael, a "mixed blood" boy in Canada in 1968. Michael is now parent of three of our beautiful grand-daughters.

The recent referendum which attempted to give a Voice to indigenous peoples was defeated following a campaign of misinformation.

The churches of Australia are faced with a challenge; to continue to advocate for justice and truth-telling for this country's indigenous peoples. (NT)

To contact the Rev. Ian Pearse

The Rev. Ian Pearse offers pastoral care to anyone in our congregation. Please ring mobile: 0411 771 853 or send an email to: enps@iinet.net.au.