



# 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.

## 25 February 2024: Lent 2

Musings from Rev. Mark Dunn



Don't you love finding a forgotten ten dollar note in your jacket pocket? Or discovering it's Sunday morning when you thought it was a

working day Monday? Well, how's this: God is gifting us a whole extra day this year with next Thursday being Leap Day 29 February! That means we get a sneaky bonus day in 2024—366 days for the price of 365.

**Why?** One orbit of Earth around the Sun takes 365.2422 days—a little more than our Gregorian calendar's 365. Adding an extra day, aka a leap day, to the calendar every 4 years brings the calendar in line and therefore synchronizes it with the four seasons. The next time it comes around to visit us is Tue 29 Feb 2028 so make the most of it!!

Ages ago, Leap Day was known as Ladies' Day, as it was the one day when women were free to propose to men. In some cultures, it is considered bad luck to get married during a leap year. I don't know of any evidence supporting that theory, but we do know that during leap years: Rome burned (64), the Titanic sank (1912) and COVID-19 struck in 2020—but I don't believe in luck.

During this penitential season of Lent, Christian tradition focuses upon the call and cost of discipleship. Today's gospel (Mk 8) picks up that theme. Jesus makes clear that for those wanting to faithfully follow him, self-denial will be required. *“Those who lose their own life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will find it.”* v35.

So, I invite you to ask yourself when was the last time you experienced some self-denial? What does your faith cost you in self-sacrifice or inconvenience as you seek to give others some priority over your own wants and needs?

This Lenten season invites us to a fresh repentance, turning from ourselves and our preoccupation with self-concern towards God and the love of neighbour.

May I suggest that you make the most of your leap day and do something very special for someone else with your bonus day. It may just become an ongoing faithful habit.

*Grace & peace as you chase down unexpected discoveries,*

*Mark*

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

25 February (Lent 2): Rev. Mark Dunn

3 March (Lent 3): Rev. Mark Dunn

### Bible readings

**Today:** Genesis 17:1–5, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31; Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38

**Next week:** Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:1–14; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup; 7pm Boys & Girls Brigade at Dreambuilders Church

**Tuesday:** 11.30am Bible Discussion & Lunch

**Wednesday:** 10am Property Committee; 2pm Seniors Afternoon Tea

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group

### Rosters 25 February (& 3 March)

**Greetings:** Elizabeth B (Sandra S)

**Audiovisual:** Christian R-K (Paul K)

**Morning Tea:** Myra K, Christine M (Samoan Ladies)

**Flowers:** Mary D (Emily M)

**Music:** Asanka P (Wendy B)

**Prayers:** Elizabeth B (TBA)

**Reader:** TBA (Margaret Forrester)

### Werribee UC on Facebook:

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

### Church office

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am–12noon.

Phone 97411084 Email

[office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au)

### WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com) or Neil Tolliday on 0402 817 673.

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

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

### To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

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

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

## Faithful Futures Project

Our Synod is working to prepare the Church for the next 10–15 years. There are common challenges and opportunities for the Church across Victoria and Tasmania. Some of the challenges include the changing age profile and size of congregations, the availability of leadership, and the burden of property maintenance. Some of the opportunities include growing in ways of worship, witness and service that are already being experimented with, listening for where God's Spirit is inviting us to reach out in faith, love and hope.

Our vision is summed up as *Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.*

A letter from the Moderator, David Fotheringham, providing more detail can be obtained from the office.

## Uniting Wyndham food donations

At our first UCAF meeting on Wednesday 7 February, the group requested the re commencement of the Uniting Food Basket. A member from the UCAF will place the basket in the front entry of the church each Sunday morning and all donations will then be taken to Uniting Wyndham mid-week. *Please note that all donations will need to be non-perishable.*

Many thanks in anticipation,  
Margaret Gook (assistant Secretary Werribee UCAF)

## Early morning exercise class

Exercise classes are now running Saturday mornings 7am to 8am in the church hall, led by Tracey S. Come along, limber up then enjoy a healthy drink to renew your energy and keep you going! All are welcome.

More details from Tracey. (Margaret Gook reports that there were about 12 people attending last week and that she loved it!)

## Good Friday's Way of the Cross

The Good Friday Way of the Cross details have now been posted on the City Council website—

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/whats-on/good-friday-way-cross>.

## Petty cash

Please note that any small expenses \$30 and under can be claimed via Petty Cash from the Church Office. Please note these must be for legitimate expenses incurred while undertaking things on behalf of the Church. Expenses in excess of this amount can be claimed from the Treasurer and will be credited back to your account. If you are not sure whether they are legitimate expenses please contact the church office on 97411084. Forms for both these types of expenses can be located in the office.

## Relay for Life

The relay for life is coming up on Saturday 23 March 10am–10pm! We have a team who participate the Relay

for Life for all the people we know who have fought cancer, live with cancer and have cared for someone. Anyone from our congregation is welcome to join and participate ☺

Each Sunday in March, we invite members of the congregation to add names of people who they remember or who they know are fighting cancer to a large mural that we will display at the Relay for Life event; our team will do a lap of remembrance during the event for each name.

Any donations go to the Cancer Council. If you are interested in making a donation or in being a part of our team, please contact me (Lauren D) via Facebook

We will be accepting cash donations during the Sundays in march, as well as sharing some of our stories and experiences!

Join the team and donate by using this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/2tmjtrcr> We look forward to another year of community, friendship, remembrance and hope at Relay for life 2024. (Lauren Duckworth)

## Our intrepid stonemasons



Geoff, Ron, Eric and Site & Alastair who took the photo — thank you for your good work !

## U.C.A. President to speak online

Sunday 3 March, 2.30pm, at the Church of All Nations, Carlton, and on Zoom, Rev. Sharon Hollis will speak about the **recent Referendum and what comes next**. Any queries, please contact Robert R.