



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.

Welcome to the Rev. Mark Dunn

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Mark Dunn as a short-term supply minister for February and March. He will lead Sunday morning worship and work two other days per week. Those days/hours will be flexible enabling Mark provide pastoral care for members in need and drop into activities at the church. Mark is a retired minister living in Pascoe Vale.

Mark's musings on being 'under orders'

Nine years ago I was gearing up for a very special event—the ordination of Juliette Tautala'aso on a Saturday in late February 2015. It was a long while since St John's Essendon had hosted an ordination service. Such an occasion marks the commencement of a lifetime of formal public ministry—they're always inspiring occasions. Some of you may know Juliette through Samoan connections.

This week I've commenced a nine week stint as your supply minister—more than seven years after I retired from St John's. I have found myself looking forward to the discipline of formal public ministry and the routine of 'hands on' ministry once again.

I've been meditating on 1 Corinthians 9:16–23. This is quite autobiographical for Paul. He defends his authority to teach and make judgments about the life of the congregation at Corinth. Evidently someone had raised questions about his apostolic credentials.

What gives Paul the right to tell them how to live their faith? His authority rests, he argues, on the fact that he did not opt to be an apostle; he is under a commission from God. He is under holy orders. Four times Paul uses the Greek word *gar* (for) to demonstrate that his authority rests upon external authorisation—the call of none other than the risen Christ. His ministry is the result of having had an obligation laid upon him (v.16). Christ not only rules as lord but also commissions others to extend his reign and to teach his truth.

Why are we here? What right have we to testify to Christ and his gospel? Just as St Paul said that his authority rested upon the call and commissioning of Christ, so each of us can live our lives as those under holy orders. We live not for ourselves but rather for the sake of Christ and the work that Christ wants done in the world.

My prayer is: Jesus, we are here because you have called each of us by name to step up and be part of your reign on earth. You have not only called us but entrusted us with your beloved world. We pray that you would give us the gifts we need to be faithful to your commission. In the face of resistance, help us to remember that we too resisted you and that the only reason we are here is because of your constantly inviting love.

When we encounter setbacks and disappointments, give us hope and a vision beyond the present. When we have doubts about our own abilities to be faithful, remind us that you would not have called us if you did not know that we could, by your grace, be faithful to your call. Amen.

Grace and peace to you and yours, Mark

Please take a note of Mark's phone: 0409 009 443 and his email address: mark@dunn.id.au

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

4 February: Rev. Mark Dunn
11 February: Rev. Mark Dunn

Bible readings

Today: Isaiah 40:21–31; I Corinthians 9:16–23; Mark 1:29–39; Psalm 147
Next Week: 2 Kings 2:1–12; 2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9; Psalm 50

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup
Tuesday: 10.30am Bible Discussion & Lunch

Wednesday: 1pm UCAF Annual Commitment Service

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group

Rosters for 4 February (& 11 Feb)

Greetings: Mary D (Margaret B)

Audiovisual: Jacob L (Paul C)

Morning Tea: Samoan Ladies (Elaine B & Julie R)

Flowers: Rose G (Jennie K)

Music: Wendy B (Gina L)

Prayers: Jan B (Margaret B)

Reader: Bev C (?)

Werribee UC online

Facebook:

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

Church office

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

office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at robert.renton@bigpond.com or Neil T.

Bank Account & Boom Gate

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

Boom gate code: 0459#

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth B)

bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au

Samoan service

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

Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) calls for deepening bonds

Inaugurated in 1957, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) is a regional ecumenical organization affiliated with the World Council of Churches and including member churches from 18 Asia and Pacific countries.

Member churches of the CCA include the Anglican Church in Australia, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese in Sydney and the Uniting Church in Australia.



Following the recent January Annual Conference of the CCA meeting in Chiang Mai Thailand, a new executive committee has been appointed.

Moderator is Bishop Reuel Marigza of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (pictured). General Secretary is Dr Mathews George Chunakara of Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in India.

The Conference Moderator issued this message to the member churches: "Hold on, pray expectantly – that God will heal us, renew us in Spirit and restore the Creation."

Moderator Bishop Marigza said: "The executive committee urges the churches of Asia to deepen their bonds with one another and maintain cordial relations with other religious communities in their local contexts. Peacebuilding depends on the prophetic voice of the church."

UC Adult Fellowship meeting

Our group resumes for the new year 2024 on the customary first Wednesday of the month, that is February 7 in the church foyer at 1 pm, for the annual Commitment Service. All are welcome!

Boys & Girls Brigade

Monday night - 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Dreambuilders Church, 37-43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing— contact vichopperscrossing@girlsbrigade.org.au or boysbrigadewyndham@gmail.com for details.

Celebration next Sunday

You are invited to come and celebrate the birth of our new congregation at Werribee Uniting Church, formed from the amalgamation of the Hoppers Crossing and Crossroads congregations — next Sunday, 9.30am. The service will be led by the Presbytery's Acting Chairperson, the Rev. Paul Blacker. Following the service there will be a special morning tea—please bring a place of finger food!



Introducing Mark Dunn



Ordained in Nov 1979, Mark ministered at Ballarat (1980–82) and Knoxfield (1983–87) before a stint as an Industrial Chaplain (1987–93). He then served the United Reformed Church in Ilkeston, Derbyshire (1993–97) while undertaking post-graduate studies in Urban Liberation Theology at the University of Sheffield.

Doncaster (1998–07) was his fifth ministry placement and finally he was called to St John's Essendon (2008–2016) from where he and his wife retired to Pascoe Vale. His membership is with the Coburg UC congregation and he was appointed the inaugural Chairperson of the Merri-bek (formerly Moreland) Interfaith Network in April 2022.

After ten years in uniform as an Army Chaplain, (mostly as the COORD CHAP to 4th BDE), Mark retired from the Australian Army in 2020. He continues to volunteer as the Deputy Command Chaplain for Australian Army Cadets, overseeing the recruitment and training of their new Chaplains. His rank is LTCOL (AAC). He is a registered trainer instructing on the suicide intervention course known as ASIST. He serves as Chaplain to his RSL Sub-Branch (Camberwell) and is the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry Coordinator for Merri-bek City Council.

Married to Jan (49 yrs) with three daughters and nine grandies, Mark loves people, relaxes at the movies or theatre, exercises regularly for fitness, supports the Kangaroos, enjoys his local Strathmore Men's Shed and plays hobby-farmer at his 22 acre Faraday forest revegetation retreat.

He is pleased to assist our newly combined Werribee UC congregation with short-term supply ministry from 1st February – 31st March '24 offering 3 days/week (.6EFT) Please reach out to him if you have a pastoral need.

Mob 0409 009 443 Email: mark@dunn.id.au

BOYS' BRIGADE FOR 2024

Commencing Monday 29th January 2024
Dreambuilders Church
37-43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing

The weekly program is designed to help
Boys to grow into true Christian manliness,
spiritually, educationally, socially and physically
in a safe and secure environment

Juniors (grade 3 to 6)- 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Seniors (year 7 to 12)- 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Contact Scott on 0409 793 993 or
boysbrigadewyndham@gmail.com for further information

Come and celebrate next Sunday!