



# 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.

## 22 March 2026: Lent 5

### UnitingWorld's Lent Event

#### Week 5: India

For our fifth week of Lent, we're hearing the story of how our partners in India are saving lives in the midst of disaster. In August and September last year, the Punjab region of India and Pakistan was lashed by monsoon rains that caused the worst flooding in decades. Hundreds of thousands of acres of bright green rice paddies – due to be harvested – were destroyed. Homes collapsed and families were left living on roof tops as they watched their food sources and livelihoods disappear under thick mud.

UnitingWorld's partner, the Church of North India's Diocese of Amritsar, was right in the midst of the tragedy. They immediately sprang into action, well prepared by many years of disaster preparedness training undertaken in partnership with UnitingWorld. UnitingWorld's emergency appeal helped provide funding. The Church was able to deliver dry rations, drinking water, hygiene items, mosquito nets and medicines. They also brought in tarpaulins and mats and help for families repairing damaged homes.

Longer term, they've been able to help the community by setting up temporary learning spaces and supporting schools to re-open. For families who lost everything in the flooding, including their ability to earn an income when their crops were destroyed, they're helping set up alternative small business opportunities.

UnitingWorld sends Uniting Churches like ours a huge thank you, on behalf of the Church of North India, for the support we've provided. UnitingWorld church partners have helped provide emergency support in recent times in the Philippines, Myanmar, Lebanon, Gaza, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Our gifts to Lent Event this year will help to provide funding for this life saving work.

**Options to give**, Werribee Uniting Church Lent Event link, Lent Event envelopes, online giving, or in person to Armando, Luciana, Mae or Node.

### New Congregation Chairperson

At our Annual Meeting we need to elect a new chairperson for our congregation. Sandra Savory has done an excellent job as our chairperson over the last three years but it is time for her to step back from that role.

The role of the chairperson is to chair all meetings of the congregation including the Annual Meeting.

It is an annual appointment. A confirmed member of the congregation is required and the person must be willing to get a Working with Children Check if they do not have one.

### TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

#### Worship services

22 March 2026: Mr Raymond Surujpal

29 March 2026: Rev. Bruce Watson

**For Pastoral Care:** Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184

#### Bible readings

**This week:** Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45

**Next week:** Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 26:14–27:66 or Matthew 21:1–11

#### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 9.30am Bible Study

**Wednesday:** 9.30am Property Group; 2pm Seniors Afternoon Tea

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group; 5.45pm Choral Practice

**Friday:** 6pm Youth Group

#### Rosters 22 March (29 March)

**Greetings:** Elizabeth Barnes (Tulua Seulupe)

**Audiovisual:** Jacob Lewis (Chelsea & Faith)

**Morning Tea:** Julie Rees & Dorothy Rookes (Jan Bradley & Myra Kempson)

**Music:** Angela Murnane (Wendy Barnes)

**Prayers:** Tulua Seulupe (Youth Group)

**Reader:** Val Tardrew (Youth Group)

#### 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, 12pm, in the Church: All welcome.

Please contact me to get a nomination form if you wish to nominate a person for this role or want to volunteer.

Text Bev on 0474 075 554

We also need to elect a secretary. I have been nominated and I am willing to accept but there may be other people you wish to nominate for this position.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held immediately after worship on Sunday 29th March. (Bev Lambie)

## Annual Report

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report this year. Many have written reports, others have helped with photos or assisted with checking and proof reading. A special thank you to Liz who spent a very challenging morning at the computer finding a way to send the very large email report to everyone.

It is a very positive report that will help us realize just how much we have achieved in 2025.

I expect to have the printed report ready for you to collect on Sunday 22nd March. (Bev Lambie)



An invitation to join a Surfcoast Uniting Church

## CAMINO WALK

A contemplative walk based on the everyday desires to still the storms of our life, find inner peace, focus on the positives and hope in a Christian context.

From the Split Point Lighthouse to Urquhart's Bluff.

**When:** Saturday, March 28, 2026, starting 10:30 AM

**Where:** Meeting in Aireys Inlet at the Lighthouse

**What to bring:** Don't forget the essentials: hat, sunscreen, water, and good walking shoes.

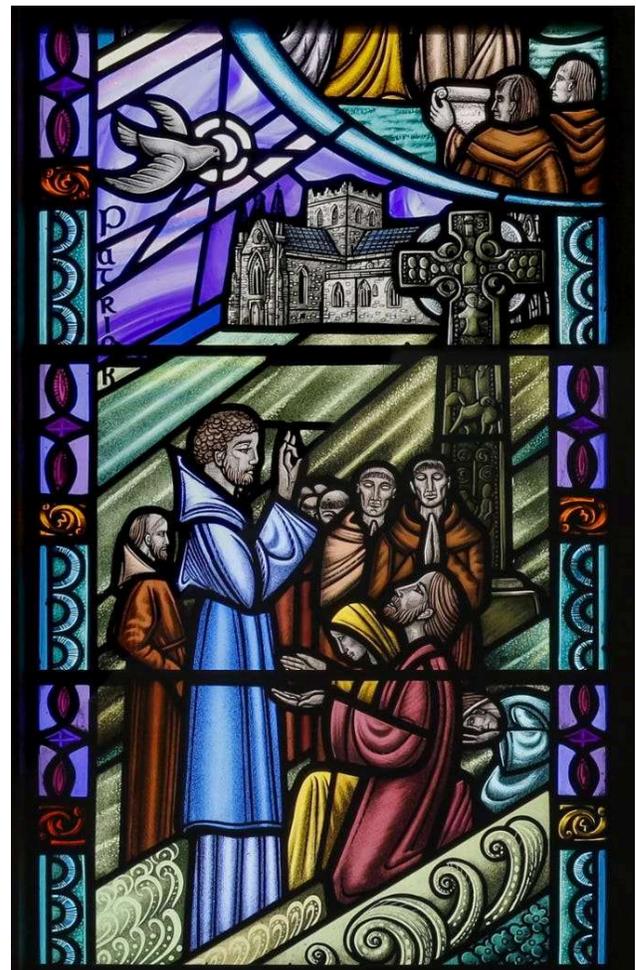
The Camino Pilgrims are invited to join in a BYO picnic lunch at Urquhart's bluff at the end of the walk.

**Please note:** All Uniting Church Events are cancelled on days of fire danger ratings of extreme or higher. The Camino planning committee reserves the right to cancel the event if the weather conditions on the day are considered unsuitable for the planned activity. Please consult the church website for further information. Website:  
<https://surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au/news-blog/>

## A prayer for peace

Peace be with our struggling spirit;  
that we may find rest in your presence.  
Peace be to our reforming spirits;  
that we may bring justice to life in our world.  
Peace be to our anxious spirit;  
that we may be bold in following the Way of Jesus.  
Peace be to our praying spirit;  
that we may find our place in serving our world.  
Peace be to our hungry spirit;  
that we may be fed by the bread of God's Spirit.  
Peace be to our lonely spirit;  
that we may continue to find companionship with people of hope.  
Peace be to our loving spirit;  
that we may respond to the rumours of God amongst us.

(Karel Reus, *Conversations with God*)



## Morning Tea Roster

Is there anyone who is willing to go on the Morning Tea Roster, as we have had some ladies retire. If so, please let the office or myself know. Elizabeth Barnes.