

# What's on at St Margaret's

## AUGUST Diary Dates

SUNDAY	6th	9.25am	Candle lit- quiet time
		9.30am	Sunday Service
MONDAY	7th	1.30pm	UCAF
TUESDAY	8th	7.30pm	Bowls
		7.30pm	Elders Meeting
WEDNESDAY	9th	8.30am	St Margaret's morning communion
		9.15am	Bible Study
		8.00pm	Social Justice Meeting
THURSDAY	10th	9.45am–10.45am	Music Together
		10.30am	Baradine AC Communion
		10.30am- 12 noon	Church Office Open
		7.30pm	Band Practice
SUNDAY	13th	9.25am	Candle lit- quiet time
		9.30am	Sunday Service

**ARNIE WIERENGA.** INFORMATION Please note that Arnie may be contacted in the following ways:- MOBILE: 0419 553 434 EMAIL: arniew1965@gmail.com MAIL - P.O. BOX 306 MOOROOLBARK, 3138 Arnie will take his day off on FRIDAY each week . Unless there is an emergency please respect his opportunity to relax on this day free from phone calls.

### **CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:**

Chairperson: Marj Hookey 9726 7286 Secretary: Robert O' Shea 9735 2393

### **13th AUGUST**

<u>Reader:</u>	Yvonne Spicer	<u>Ushers:</u>	Fay & Rex.
<u>Tea Station:</u>	June & Denise	<u>Sound Desk</u>	Dal Driberg
<u>Power Point:</u>	Alan Norris	<u>Chapel Cleaning</u>	Dal & Jenny

The Church Office is open on Thursday mornings 10.30am – 12 Noon telephone number 9723 7323 Notices can be emailed to [stmargarets@netspace.net.au](mailto:stmargarets@netspace.net.au) by 10.30a.m. each Thursday

## **FAMILY GATHERING**

All who attended Family Gathering last Sunday enjoyed the great photos and interesting talk by Geoff and Denise Greenhalgh on their recent trip to Mexico and the USA and particularly the magnificent scenery in the National Parks. Thank you for sharing it with us. Our next Family Gathering will be at 5:30p.m. on Sunday 27th August. Mark this date in your diary and come along to hear Julie Robinson explain about "Living Wills" p.s. this is NOT about money. Robert O'Shea 9735 2393

## **OFFERINGS - Just how are we going?**

The good news is that at the end of the first six months we are ahead of budget for our total offerings. We received a total of \$44,505 which was \$2,155 or 4.84% above budget.

Through the Planned Giving Program you gave \$41,596 which is \$3,096 or 8% above budget. Giving through Open Plate for the first six months was \$2,909 which is \$941 or 24.4% below budget.

Thank you to all for your generous giving sustaining mission and ministry through St Margaret's. Robert O'Shea Planned Giving Elder

## **BOOK CHAT Tuesday 22nd August**

Pick up a copy of "Living a Countersign" by Ian M. Fraser to read and join with us for Book Chat at 10:00a.m on August 22nd to enjoy talk together with a cup of tea or coffee (and something nice to eat). This short book tells the story of Iona and the growth of Basic Christian Communities throughout the world. You are very welcome to borrow a book to read even if unable to come to the "Chat" on the 22nd. Please return the book at the Chat or before the 22nd August. Marilyn O'Shea 9735 2393

**Social Justice Meeting** The next meeting for social justice will be on Wednesday August 9th.

**Elders Meeting** is on 8th August the 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.30pm.

## **ROSTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 TO FEBRUARY 2018**

The form to fill in if you know you are unavailable for an extended time or wish to volunteer (or be taken off) is on the Notice Board.

**NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AND MOST WELCOME.**



*Lentara*

## **ASYLUM-SEEKER SUPPORT PROGRAM NEWS -**

Our Asylum-Seeker Support Program supports the most vulnerable people who are seeking asylum in the community. Due to their legal status, many asylum seekers are unable to work, or access any forms of welfare provided by the Australian Government. Many have nowhere to live, as they are unable to apply for mainstream homeless accommodation or public housing programs, falling outside the homelessness support system. These people have to rely on the charity of non-government organisations like Lentara UnitingCare for assistance.

The capacity of the Project is limited by our ability to provide safe housing. In 2016 we were able to support up to 60 individuals including 14 children.

St.Margaret's congregation generously supports this work through a major contribution from the proceeds of our Annual Fete in November.

### **LATEST FROM MANUS ISLAND -**

Australia's Border Force has now cut off both power and water to the Fox Compound in an attempt to force the detainees into the PNG community.

### **UCAF**

Monday 7th August meeting in the Chapel at 1.30pm will be "Learning about Parkinson's Disease" ALL WELCOME. Please bring a small plate of food to share & something for the trading table.

## **THE LINK**

Help is needed to write articles for the September Link. It would be good to have any articles by no later than Sunday 20th August.

Have you been on a holiday recently? Do you have a favourite poem? What about some family history? We would love to create a good Link for September – be part of it!

Send your article either as a Word Attachment by computer or give your handwritten material to Marj who will prepare it for the computer.

Editor Marj Hookey 9726 7286 [marjhookey@hotmail.net.au](mailto:marjhookey@hotmail.net.au)

**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD** is available in the Foyer today. It really helps if you are able to contribute \$5 towards the cost (Pop it in an envelope in the open plate.)

## **CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT**

Arnie chaired the Council meeting as Marj. was too unwell to attend.

Council and all members wish Marj. a swift recovery to good health. Jan Down led Devotions explaining that Jesus had "invisible friends". i.e. he spoke and related to folk who were "invisible" in that society, lepers, women, children and so on. Today in Australia we are also "blind" to many in our society- asylum seekers, aborigines among others, They are "invisible. As Christians we care about the poor and dispossessed but do we know them? All people need to be seen, to have relationships, to be accepted and welcomed, treated and valued as individuals.

Church Council was very happy to accede to the request from the UCAF to host next year's Presbytery gathering at St Margaret's. An exciting initiative. Arnie gave brief report on his recent Study Leave at the Conference in Darwin and his time with indigenous family in Arnhem Land .He plans to share insights into the life, challenges and problems indigenous folk face with the congregation during worship.

Treasurer Ann reported that the deficit, arising from the necessary works on the manse and church windows, is less than anticipated at this stage of the year. In response to the recent Royal Commission the UCA is continuing to develop policies to ensure the safety of all involved in church activities. The process involves all leaders attending "Safe Church Training". Council decided that this would occur in August and September.

Robert O'Shea Secretary Church Council