

What's on at St Margaret's

DECEMBER Diary Dates

SUNDAY	3rd	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service
		2.00pm	Orchestral Concert & Market
MONDAY	4th	1.30pm	UCAF
		5.00pm	Finance & Property Meeting
TUESDAY	5th	9.30am	Dad's Army
		7.30pm	Bowls
WEDNESDAY	6th		
THURSDAY	7th	9.45am–10.45am	Music Together
		10.30am- 12 noon	Church Office Open
		7.30pm	Band Practice
SUNDAY	10th	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service
			TEAR Gift shop

INFORMATION: PREACHER: Sarah Tomilson Phone 0433 508 315 Email: sorch100@hotmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:

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

10th DECEMBER

Reader: Yvonne Spicer Ushers: Judy & Noel De Voogd Tea Station Jean Curnow & Bev Trollope
Sound Desk Rex Phillips Power Point: Michael Down Chapel Cleaning Michael Down

Orchestral Concert and Market TODAY

Sunday afternoon December 3rd the Dandenong Ranges Orchestra will perform here for us. The concert starts at 2:00pm(earlier than usual) Tickets are Adults \$15 Concession \$10.

On the same day after church and during the afternoon you will be able to buy goods made in developing countries at our Alternative Christmas Market. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to the concert.

ADVENT REFLECTION The Advent Reflection is a series of prayer centres to guide you as you reflect on THE JOURNEY OF THE WISEMEN. Everyone is welcome Allow 30 – 45 minutes. Monday 4th December 4.30 – 9pm. The Salvation Army – Mooroolbark Corps, 305 Manchester Road Chirnside Park 3116. Gold coin donation for the Christmas Bowl Appeal. For further details Beth 0434 720 732

If you have a mobile phone or computer capable of emails, you or someone you know might like to receive our **Weekly Reflection and Notice Sheet** to stay in the loop. Speak to Franklyn or ring 0405802797

RYDA Christmas Certificates The 2017 Gift Certificates to support RYDA are now available. Look for a display at morning tea, or Visit the web page: <http://www.blackdouglas.com.au/ryda/chrgift.htm>, or Ring Doug: 0401 177 775 An information sheet is also available to include with the gift to provide the receiver with background about RYDA.

TEAR Australia Useful Gift shop here 10th December

The TEAR Useful Gift shop will be open again at morning tea on Sunday 10th December – instead of being at the Alternative Christmas Market as originally planned. Catalogues will be available at the market.

Each card from the TEAR gift catalogue represents a gift – e.g. the Chickens Card for \$5 helps people learn to raise chickens to earn an income. Or the Adult Literacy Card for \$25 helps adults to learn to read and write, which can transform people's lives.

TEAR Australia is a movement of Christians in Australia responding to the needs of poor communities around the world. See tear.org.au for more information. If you missed hearing Deborah Storie speak about the work of TEAR, you can find her TEAR talk as well as her sermon at <http://wordpress.stmargaretsuca.org>

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Advance Notice)

25th February 2018 is the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Annual Reports are requested by 24th January 2018 and can be emailed to jimoshea@bigpond.com or handed in at the office.

Elections for Elders and Church Councilors will be held at the Annual Meeting. Nominations will open on Sunday 21st January and close at 9:30a.m. on Sunday 11th February, 2018.

Yvonne Spicer, Ngun Liam and Robert O'Shea (Church Council) and Karen White (Elder) have completed their term but are eligible for nomination together with any member or member in association of the congregation.

Please give this important matter your prayerful consideration.

Robert O'Shea Secretary

CHRISTMAS BOWL When did I see you Hungry? Sick? A stranger?

Achala's grandmother fled Sri Lanka when civil war came to her village. As a stranger in a foreign land, restricted to a refugee camp and without family support, she struggled to feed her granddaughter.

When she discovered Achala had leukaemia, she thought all hope was lost.

Without money for medicine and hospital visits, Achala would die.

Through your gifts to the Christmas Bowl, you brought hope and healing to Achala's family, helping them access the treatment needed to save Achala's life. Thanks to you, this brave girl is in remission and wants to be a doctor to help others like her.

Sadly, Achala's story is one of many and this work is not finished. This Christmas, there are still many more families in urgent need of your support.

Please give to the Christmas Bowl today to bring hope and healing to the world.

Christmas Services.

This year Christmas services are complicated by Christmas Eve being on a Sunday. The Chin community have the church for their regular services both in the afternoon and evening which means that we will not be able to have our usual Christmas Eve evening service.

Come and join us for Messy Church from 4pm to 6pm on Saturday 23rd December – Christmas craft activities for children and parents, followed by a simple service then a sausage sizzle for our evening meal.

Christmas Eve Service 9.30 am Christmas Day service 9.30 am.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR there will be a choir to sing on Sunday 17th Dec. Sunday 24th Dec. and Christmas Day Monday 25th December. Choir practice commences this coming Thursday Dec. 6th and will meet then on 13th and 20th December in the church at 7.30 pm. All those who would like to help with our Christmas music would be most welcome. Conductor Ken Davies 9726 5952 for details.

NOTICES If you have an item of interest for the notices please WRITE THE DETAILS ON PAPER & give to either Robert or Marj who will be sharing the notices in the next few weeks. (ILLNESS, SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, ETC.

FAMILY GATHERING

Special thanks to Sarah Tomlison who spoke about her adventures in Lebanon and Turkey in July this year and shared with us something of her personal history and journey and call to ministry. A WOW evening enjoyed by all present to conclude Family Gathering for 1917. Robert O'Shea

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

A late start at 8:25 p.m. for our Church Council meeting as members, Elders and partners together with Arnie, Sarah and Jennie had met from 6:00p.m. at the Immanuel Burmese Restaurant in Croydon for a delicious meal and social time together.

As this was the last Council meeting for the year there was much business to discuss. Nancy led the devotions reading verses 27-30 from Mark Ch. 8 where Jesus asked his disciples the question "Who do you say I am"? and Jennie's reflective poem on the same passage.

Council spent some time reflecting on the Fete and recorded a minute of appreciation to Marj. Hookey for all the effort, hard work and time she had put in to ensure its success. St Margaret's has held an annual fete since 1945! However we are not getting any younger and the heavy workload is falling to smaller group. Perhaps it is time to downsize, consider alternatives. This will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. What do you think? Arrangements are in hand to complete the work on the high windows which has been delayed by the disappearance of the original contractor.

Services to the end of January are arranged including Messy Church on Saturday 23rd December 4:00 to 6:00p.m.) for families and services at 9:30a.m. on both Sunday 24th and Christmas Day.

The Treasurer reported that our deficit is less than anticipated in the Budget but it is important to remember that painting of the exterior will be held over to 2018. Council decided on the distribution of funds from the fete with payment for Kids Hope, SRI costs, donations to Asylum Seekers and an Aboriginal Project and half the money going to the UCA Mission Support Fund. We finally concluded with the Grace at 10:10p.m. Robert O'Shea

LATEST FROM MANUS ISLAND – Provided by Franklyn

This week I received this email from my friend "M" who with others, has been in detention for four years.

Dear Franklyn. Thanks for your messages. I am fine and I hope you are fine too. Yes all refugees moved to New camps which are built close to town. And we are being given food every day.

In fact we are more worried about our situation and safety in PNG than food.

And also "S" and about more than 100 refugees left detention in Manus to the capital of PNG Port Morsby six months ago. They were moved to POM (prescription only medication) under treatment but unfortunately no medical treatment. Just put them in hotel and left them alone and hopelessly without money and cigarettes!

I hope for a better future. Thank you again and God bless you.

I ALSO READ THE FOLLOWING NEWS –

Doctors from the international aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) were left "frustrated and disappointed" after they were refused entry to Manus Island compounds despite approval to do so.

MSF were given permission by Papua New Guinea's immigration authorities last week to medically examine hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees.

But they say that when they arrived at the centres, the private security contractors stationed outside the facilities, refused the team access.

AND

"We are robbing them of their freedom, denying them all hope and condemning them to terrible suffering," World Vision chief advocate Tim Costello told reporters in Canberra on Tuesday.

Mr Costello described meeting men on Manus Island with fear and anxiety written across their faces and whose bodies were frozen in fear.

WHY IS OUR GOVERNMENT DOING THIS TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ??????

PLANNED GIVING You can make your offering by direct debit to our church account with UCA Funds. I have forms available if you are interested. You can also use direct transfer to the church account using the following information - BSB 704907. Account Number 109789008

Account Name Mooroolbark St Margarets Uniting Church. Happy to chat if you would like more information.

Robert O'Shea -Planned Giving Elder