

What's on at St Margaret's

MARCH Diary Dates

SUNDAY	4 th	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service
		Followed by	Lenten Study
MONDAY	5 th	1.30pm	U.C.A.F
		5.00pm	Finance & Property Meeting
TUESDAY	6 th	7.30pm	Bowls
THURSDAY	7 th	9.45am–10.45am	Music Together
		10.30am- 12 noon	Church Office Open
SUNDAY	11 th	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service

INFORMATION: ARNIE WIERENGA. INFORMATION Please note that Arnie may be contacted in the following ways:- MOBILE: 0419 553 434
 EMAIL: arniw1965@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

FINANCE AND PROPERTY MEETING.

The next meeting will be held at 5PM Monday 5th March.

11th March 2018

<u>Reader:</u>	Rex Phillips	<u>Ushers:</u>	Nancy & Carolyn
<u>Tea Station</u>	Leanne & Judy	<u>Sound Desk</u>	Clive Hamilton
<u>Power Point:</u>	Michael Down	<u>Chapel Cleaning</u>	Ken & Katharine

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 by 10.30a.m. each Thursday

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.

FAMILY GATHERING

All present last Sunday enjoyed listening to the amazing and inspiring story of the work of Jenny and John Preston and their family and the foundation they established supporting community schools in Zambia.

Next Family Gathering will be on Sunday 25th March so mark this date in your diary. Hope you will be able to join with us then. Robert O'Shea 9735 2393

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

It was great to welcome the return of Arnie at our Church Council meeting on Wednesday evening. He conducted the election of office bearers and no surprises resulted. Marj Hookey is continuing as Chairperson, Robert O'Shea as Secretary and Anne Gaudion as Treasurer. Anne led the Devotions using "Wisdoms Way", our Lenten Study, and verses from Proverbs.

Amongst the correspondence was a request from Eastern Health for our help in conducting worship services at their facility in Cambridge Rd. This service was provided previously through St Francis in the Fields

In his report Arnie mentioned how strange he had felt not conducting services at Christmas. He had found the work across the Presbytery challenging but felt he had been able to make a contribution. He was glad to be back at St Margaret's again. (We are glad too!)

Council approved 4 baptisms planned to take place shortly. The Treasurer reported that all is going well financially- only a few expenses in January.

Our various groups are all underway and Music Together has had a good start to the year with encouraging numbers attending. Great news of a group of our men who have begun meeting regularly for Bible study.

Easter Services are planned and Arnie will be preaching on all Sundays in March.

The future organization of Arnie's .75 role will be considered at Council's next meeting. Arising from a suggestion made at the Annual Meeting Marj offered to act as "alternate" for the next Presbytery Meeting as Alan is in hospital. Please ask any member if you have any questions or would like more information on matters discussed at Council. Robert O'Shea Secretary

NEWS FROM **MANUS ISLAND**

Hello Mr Franklyn. I am happy to hear from you. And I hope you are fine. Thank you for your messages and following the news about us. Here in refugee camp in Manus I have a better life than before in detention! I have better food and free time to go out for shopping with my weekly allowance and going to church on Sundays of course. (by the way today on Sunday it was very hot and intolerable heat!)

The most problem here, leaving me in limbo situation. Nobody knows when we go to America! Some lucky refugees were sent to America but I am still waiting! I wish I had a laptop computer to study and searching some lessons and useful information in my free time in Manus but I don't have and I wish you could help me for that.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon. And God bless you.

Your friend Mehran.

Mehran and others have been in Australia's Offshore Detention Centre on Manus Island for over four years – for fleeing to Australia by boat !!

(Article provided by Franklyn)

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

At the next meeting tomorrow Monday March 5th those attending are invited to bring a favourite Easter hymn. It needs to be one that is available in the Australian Hymn Books, which are housed in the room where UCAF is held. As well as a favourite hymn, people are asked to say why they liked the one chosen. The theme for the meeting is Easter Parade with a starting time of 1.30 as usual.

BOOK CHAT- "An Ordinary Bloke"

This book is the story of the life of an "EXTRAORDINARY bloke" who *"established a business that became the largest capital city metropolitan parcel organisation in Australia"* and *"realised his dream of using the profits to support Christian missions and challenge unjust social structures"*

Pick up a copy to read and join with us in the foyer at 9:30a.m. on Tuesday 27th March to chat and enjoy tea, coffee and cake. You are welcome to borrow a copy to read even if you can't come to Book Chat. Please return all copies at the Book Chat or before March 27th.

Marilyn O'Shea 9735 2393

LENTEN STUDY will be held in the church following morning tea this morning. there are still two spare books.

TERRA CYCLE - RECYCLING PROGRAM – toothpaste tubes boxes ,brushes etc plus any make up containers now have a new container – THE PURPLE BIN - Jorja and Chloe now have over 2000 items to send away (worth \$20 which they are donating to RYDA) Please continue to save these items – put them in the one bin.

EASTER BISCUITS Easter is coming fast.

Prison Fellowship Victoria are asking for home made biscuits for 75,000 prisoners this Easter.

Each prisoner will receive a package of 10 biscuits and a message.

The plain biscuits recommended: are Anzac's ,Choc Chip, firm shortbread, ginger, coconut etc **Nothing Containing Nuts.**

Our congregation has supported this a kind act most generously in past years which brings comfort and encouragement to prisoners who are reached by this ministry.

Note-- Easter is early this year, so we have only two weeks to bring our contribution to church. The biscuits are needed by Friday 16th March. Julie Robinson will be co ordinating the delivery of the biscuits to the Prison Fellowship office on 16th. Please bring your biscuits to church in a sealed container and place them in the carton provided.

If you need your contribution to be picked up, please contact Julie on 9727 2736. Thank you in anticipation Julie Robinson

Letter Writing

We have another opportunity to make a difference by writing some letters. In the pocket on the Social Justice board you will find guidelines on these issues:-

Peace for the Philippines - concern about Australia's military support

Let them stay-again - concern for asylum seekers in the Australian community

Fortunately our letters can have positive results. Here are some examples:-

- 1) some groups are now excused from forced labour cotton picking in Uzbekistan*
- 2) Victoria will have an independent energy broker for vulnerable families*
- 3)The Federal Government plans to stop bribes being paid to foreign officials*
- 4)The Federal Government has initial plans to stop stolen money being hidden in Australia*