

What's on at St Margaret's

MARCH Diary Dates

SUNDAY	17 th	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service
		Followed by	Lenten Study
MONDAY	18 th		
TUESDAY	19 th	7.30pm	Bowls
WEDNESDAY	20 th		
THURSDAY	21 st	9.45am–10.45am	Music Together
SUNDAY	24 th	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service
		Followed by	Lenten Study
		5.30pm	Family Gathering

MINISTER Rev. Dr. Robert Stringer. OFFICE PHONE 9723 7323

CONTACTS & CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE.

CHAIRPERSON Marj Hookey 9726 7286

SECRETARY Karen White 0414 691 258

TREASURER Ann Gaudion 0412 765 509

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS.

BENDIGO BANK BSB 633 000 ACCOUNT NUMBER 163 224 256

ST. MARGARET'S UNITING CHURCH

ROSTERS: are now ready for collection – Please collect a copy from the desk in the foyer.

24th MARCH 2019

Reader Rex Phillips

Tea Station Carolyn & Tessa

Power Point: Michael Down

Ushers: Robert & Marilyn

Sound Desk Stephen White

Chapel Cleaning Karen & Stephen

EASTER BISCUIT BAKE

Please help support this program aiming to provide every Victorian prison inmate with 10 home made biscuits and a card explaining the meaning of Easter. Biscuits need to be homemade, NO NUTS or peanut butter used.

Put the biscuits in a sealed disposable container (ice cream containers are ideal) and list the ingredients used on top of the container.

Please bring them to church Sunday 31st March or April 7th .

Julie Robinson 9727 2736 will pick up your biscuits if needed and will deliver St Margaret's contribution to the collection centre.

DAY OF THANKS MAYORAL BREAKFAST.

This year the Mayoral Breakfast will be on Saturday May 25th at 7.45am at the Jim's Conference Centre in Edinburgh Road, Lilydale.

Last year we missed out on tickets as folk failed to book in time. This year's speaker is likely to be just as popular.

Scott Ayton will be the guest speaker. He is the head of the Translational Neuroscience Laboratory and Deputy Director of the Melbourne Dementia Research Centre at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health. Please let Marj know as soon as possible if you would like to attend and a table will be booked. Ph. 9726 7286 or marjhokey@hotmail.net.au

BOOK CHAT Pick up a copy of "Reclaiming an Ancient Heritage" by Gwen Masters to read and join with us at 10:00a.m. on Tuesday 2nd April for tea, coffee, cake and chat. Feel free to borrow a copy to read even if you are unable to come on April 2nd. Please return all copies by Sunday 31st March or at the "chat" on the 2nd April.
Marilyn O'Shea

FAMILY GATHERING Sunday 24th March

Come along and join with us next Sunday 24th March at 5:30p.m. in the Chapel when our special guest will be Rev Dr Robert Stringer. An interesting evening is assured as he shares something of his life experiences with us.. .

Please bring along some sweet and savoury food to share.

Robert O'Shea



SOME PROOF IN THE FACE OF FAITH

According to a study conducted by the University of British Columbia in 2006, thoughts about God tend to make people more generous and cooperative.

This may not come as a surprise to church-goers but it was (apparently) the first study of its kind to provide actual evidence in favour of the idea. The study's aim was to determine how notions of God or a higher power can affect social behaviour including generosity towards strangers. Participants were 'primed', by the activation of subconscious thoughts through word games, with 'God concepts'.

The results showed that the priming promoted feelings of altruism and goodwill towards others. It's probably not hard to work out, why having faith in a benevolent God, is conducive to a positive attitude in life, and an enhanced capacity to contribute to the greater good. When you feel cared for and supported by a power greater than yourself, it's easier to ignore your worries about not having enough, or the instinct to ensure your survival beyond all else. You also learn to appreciate the blessings in your life – what you have, rather than what you don't. This may seem obvious – but it's nice to have some 'proof' in the argument for faith.

Many people receive desperately needed help from faith-based, particularly Christian, non-profit groups every day. In being able to freely give where they see a need, these groups are able to provide hope to "the least of these" in our communities.

by anonymous

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN NEWS SKILLS

You are invited to join the "PowerPoint" Team or the "Sound Desk" Team.

Gentle training will be provided. For "PowerPoint" speak with Alan, Michael or Franklyn. For "Sound Desk" speak with Rex. You can make a valuable contribution to Worship for our congregation through these ministries.

LENTEN OFFERING

The Lenten Offering is an annual event in the life of congregations within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. It is conducted during Lent and Easter at a time of reflection, renewal and recommitment.

In response to God's love for all people and the giving of God's son to the world, an opportunity is provided for people of the Church to make a sacrificial offering to support important mission projects.

The 2019 Lenten Offering will support the following projects: -

- ❖ Ecumenical Accompaniment Program *International*
- ❖ Homework Hub Pakenham Officer *Melbourne Metro*
- ❖ Benalla Central Community Garden *Regional Victoria*

Migrant Women's Music and Language Project *Tasmania*

To support the Lenten Offering-

- Pick up an appeal brochure at St Margarets
- Free call 1800 668 426
- Send a cheque or postal order to:-

Lenten Offering 2019 Reply Paid 85995 A'Beckett Street Vic. 8006

Celebrate Mooroolbark

Next Saturday, March 23rd, St Margaret's will again have a presence at the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival at Red Earth Park, off Brice Avenue.

The Social Justice team, along with other helpers, will set up the Church gazebo and be there from 10:00 to 4:00 , providing children's activities and things to take home.

We aim to be planting gospel seeds: people will see that the Church is active in the community, and providing enjoyable activities for their children. We hope this will create interest that may lead people to further enquiries. We hope to have good conversations with visitors to our stall. Please help by praying for us (this matters!) and / or by offering to spend an hour or two in the gazebo. If you can help, please see Joyce Dodge or Jan Down. Thankyou.

HELPING HAND DONATIONS

Items in urgent need are: - Milk -- 2 minute noodles ----
Baked Beans --- Tin Spaghetti ---- Female Hygiene pads ----
Shampoo. Thank you.