



*The Uniting Church in Australia*

**St. Andrew's Sunbury**

**Minister: Rev. Stan Clarke**

## **Sunday Bulletin**



### **OUR SERVICES**

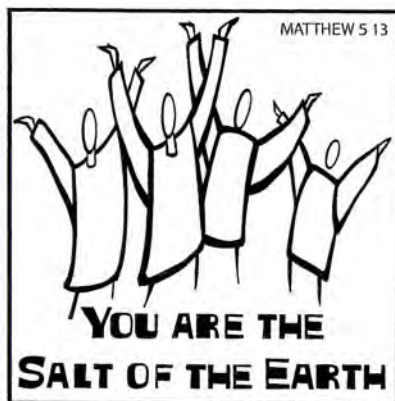
9.30am Sunday

Traditional Service 2pm 4th Sundays

Sunday Evening Gathering 6pm 1st and 3rd Sundays

(10am Good Friday 9am Christmas Day)

*or general contact information, see inside back page*



### **MATTHEW 5:13-20**

**Y**ou are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to

fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

*Welcome all... to Worship today*

*If you are a visitor or newcomer, please join us after worship for cuppa and a chat, and we would be pleased if you would sign a Visitor's Book which you will find in either foyer.*



*Our preacher this morning is Rev. Stan Clarke, the vestry duty person is Dianne Moon and the organist/pianist is Peter Mitchell.*



## *The story of St. Valentine*

*There are different versions of the story of St. Valentine - the following ideas seem to be the most common*



According to church tradition, St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about 270 AD when the Emperor at the time, Claudius, was persecuting the church. Claudius issued an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people, based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers who might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died. Valentine believed in the Catholic Church's idea of marriage being sacred so he secretly performed marriage ceremonies. He was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for defying the edict.

Whilst in prison, Valentine continued to minister. He witnessed to the guards. One of these was a good man called Asterius who had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptised. When the emperor heard about this, he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so had him beheaded.

A further tradition states that Valentine and the guard's daughter developed a special love or friendship and, before he was beheaded, Valentine wrote her a note, signing it "from your Valentine". From this sad situation we now celebrate Valentine's Day as a special day for expressing love and friendship.

Although St. Valentine's Day is usually associated with the red rose, it is actually the violet that began the tradition of St. Valentine. While he was imprisoned, St. Valentine crushed violet flowers growing outside his cell to make ink with which to write his messages of friendship and love.





## *As I see it ...*

It's been a bewildering time in the political world. Forged documents are used to attack Sydney's Lord Mayor and the Australian Federal Police decide it's not worth pursuing, even though they had very publicly pursued truth-telling whistleblowers so recently. Senator Molan said quite blatantly on QandA that he is not interested in evidence and goes on propagating uninformed opinion. The US Senate has given a corrupt and morally reprehensible President carte blanc to do as he pleases, even while acknowledging what he had done was wrong, because they didn't have the courage to call him in. It is quite unconscionable behaviour from people who wish to be respected and listened to.

Coincidentally, taking place in Canberra on Friday, was a meeting addressing the question of how the lack of respect we have for politicians can be turned around. On the same day further revelations were surfacing of large grants awarded to organisations who knew nothing about it until it was reported in the media awarded through an overtly partisan and legally suspect program.

I raise this scenario because it asks of us the very same question of integrity. Are we as individual Christians, and as a church, held in any higher regard than our politicians are? Certainly realities of failures exposed in the Royal Commissions into the stolen generation and sexual abuse of children has tarnished the Church's standing in the eyes of many. It is one of the factors that has turned people away from participation in the religious institutions of our land. Respect is easily dismantled and only hard and slowly established.

In this week's section of Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount* in Matthew's Gospel, having just surprised us by declaring some of the most marginalised people in the community to be 'blessed', we hear Jesus say to very ordinary people like ourselves, that we are not just blessed, but we are salt and light in the life of the world. We are the people who bring flavour and goodness to our society. We are the people who stand against corruption. We are the people who shine a light on the good and the evil in our world to help society make better choices. It is only the leaders who pompously strut around thinking they are entitled to their privilege, thinking they are above the laws they impose on others, that get a right royal serve from Jesus.

These are truly beautiful and terrifying words, as we noted the Beatitudes were last week. I don't always see myself quite as Jesus declares me to be in these verses. But I hear Jesus, not exhorting me to BE these things, but telling that is who I am (and who you are) – that we have that role to play in our community. Having told us that we are light, we are exhorted to let that light shine and be seen, to let it do its job. That's when the role of the Spirit takes over from us.

Let's humbly accept our role as salt and light in our community.

... (Rev) Stan



## *What's happening and when ...*

***Tuesday Night Program*** The first one is at 7.30pm on ***Tuesday 11th February*** and will be a wine and cheese evening at Glenys Warne's home (8 Tree Violet Court). We will be chatting about what we want to do in 2020. Bring a friend!! RSVP to Glenys on 9744 2436 or send any suggestions by email to Glenys at [jqwarne@bigpond.com](mailto:jqwarne@bigpond.com)

***Social day*** On ***Saturday 22nd February*** at 2pm, we will be getting together in the church hall to play a few games and have some fun getting to know something about each other. Please bring your suggestions, large or small, simple or otherwise, of the kind of events YOU would like to happen at St. Andrew's in 2020. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be provided.

***Sunbury LEC (Lay Ecumenical Committee)*** The AGM for Sunbury Lay Ecumenical Committee will be held on ***Tuesday 25th February*** at 7:30 pm in the St. Mary's Parish House. All welcome!

***St. Andrew's Quiet Day*** Our first for this year will be held on ***Saturday 29th February***, from 10am to 3pm at The White Goose (aka the old Uniting Church, 3 Sutherland's Road, Riddells Creek). This is an opportunity for individual and group reflection and contemplation. *For further information or if you need transport, call Barb Ashley on 0410 439 724 or Jill Gray on 0400 236 122.*

***A Community Family Fun Day*** will be held at Sunbury Baptist Church (207 Gap Road) on ***Saturday 29th February*** from 12 to 5pm. There will be a jumping castle and other kids' activities including face-painting, sausage sizzle, games, coffee van, fairy floss, popcorn and more. The sausage sizzle will run from 12.30 till 2.30pm or feel free to bring a picnic lunch.

***Congregational AGM*** This will be held after the Service on ***Sunday 15th March***. All group annual reports must be given to Peter Mitchell or Glenys Warne by ***Sunday 1st March*** for distribution to the congregation on ***Sunday 8th March***.

***News from Uniting*** We have recently received copies of the Uniting Summer 2019/2020 Newsletter, called 'Congregation Connect'. The newsletter gives details of some of the projects supported by Uniting and carried out on our behalf with our donations to their appeals during the year. You can find copies of 'Congregation Connect' in each foyer. *Why not take a look!* **Uniting**



**CareWorks thank-you** "Once again, we were totally blown away by the generosity of the Sunbury community, in donating food, gifts and Christmas treats via our 'cage' at Sunbury Square. At most pick-ups, the cage was full almost to overflowing. In addition, we received many generous donations of goods and food directly from individuals and organisations, for which we're very thankful.

We were also very grateful to St. Andrew's Uniting Church for making available a much-needed new space for storing, bagging and distributing our Christmas hampers. In total, 338 bags of Christmas goodies were distributed to 218 local households, brightening Christmas for more than 500 local adults and children, who would have otherwise struggled. Each recipient was also able to choose from a selection of Christmas gifts for family members. As the volunteers will attest, there were lots of smiles and not a few tears of gratitude over the pick-up period!"

**Uniting Bushfire Appeal** Donations to this appeal will help meet immediate needs and also *enable longer term relief and recovery*. \$151,655 has been raised so far! To donate, go to [www.unitingvictas.org.au/uniting-vic-tas-2020-bushfire-appeal](http://www.unitingvictas.org.au/uniting-vic-tas-2020-bushfire-appeal) or give them a call on 1800 668 426.

**Frontier Services Bushfire Relief Appeal** Donations to this appeal will aid trauma counselling and emergency relief to people in the Gippsland area. To donate, go to [www.frontierservices.org/donate/bushfire-relief-appeal](http://www.frontierservices.org/donate/bushfire-relief-appeal)



## **World Day of Prayer**

**7.30pm Tuesday 3rd March  
at Bethany Lutheran Church**

The host country is Zimbabwe and the theme is  
***Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk***

Supper will be provided. All welcome!



[www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)



## *Dates for your diary in February*

### **MONDAY 10th**

- \* 10.00 am Drop-in Centre (till 3pm) in SS Hall

### **TUESDAY 11th**

- \* 10.00 am Drop-in Centre (till 3pm) in SS Hall
- \* 7.30 pm Tuesday Night Program

### **WEDNESDAY 12th**

- \* 10.00 am Drop-in Centre (till 3pm) in SS Hall

### **THURSDAY 13th**

- \* 10.00 am KYB (Know Your Bible - Michelle Dennis 9744 1779)
- \* 11.00 am Contemplative Prayer Group (Barb Ashley 0410 439 724)

### **FRIDAY 14th**

### **SATURDAY 15th**

### **SUNDAY 16th**

- \* 9.30 am Worship Service
- \* 6.00 pm Sunday evening gathering
- \* Rosters Vestry R. Marlow  
Door C. Marlow, J. Unwin  
Morning Tea J. Semmens, S. Wellington



## **WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT ??**

**Happy Birthday!** to Carole Simpson - 11th and Katherine Watson - 14th.

**Thank you** "On behalf of my grand-daughter, Grace Semmens, thank you to everyone who contributed to help fund Grace to participate in Oxfam's 100km walk for world poverty. The amount raised was \$230.30, very much appreciated. May God Bless you all - Jan Semmens."

**Jeanette's ministry** On behalf of the congregation, Jeanette McBean sends out get-well, sympathy and congratulatory cards, on which she prayerfully writes meaningful messages. These cards are always well received. If you know of **2020 Calendar** Copies of the 2020 Crosslight Calendar are available on the large table in the Brook Street foyer if you would like another copy.

**Petrol pump wisdom** ... from a petrol station in Gauteng, South Africa, where uplifting quotes are written on a chalkboard for passing motorists to read – "It's better to walk alone, than with a crowd going in the wrong direction."



## Love is in the air by Ian Menzies

Valentine's Day. Chocolates and red roses. Romantic dinners and star-struck lovers. Barefoot beach walks and schmaltzy pop songs. Like John Paul Young's 1978 hit, *Love is in the Air*. But wait – just as the secular world has appropriated many Christian carols, what if we reciprocate and recast this pop song? We often refer to God as Love. Revisit this song anew in that light:

*Love is in the air, everywhere I look around. Love is in the air, [in] every sight and every sound: in the whisper of the trees; in the thunder of the sea; in the rising of the sun; when the day is nearly done. I don't know if I'm being foolish, don't know if I'm being wise, but it's something that I must believe in, and it's there when I look in your eyes.*

Perhaps there's something in this Valentine's Day thingy after all. Love is indeed in the air, everywhere we look around; it is indeed something that we must believe in, and is certainly there when we look in a loved one's eyes – and for that all praise should be to God.

**Reflection:** *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

1 John 4: 16 (NIV)



### Lectionary Readings for 16th February

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37



### Minister

Rev. Stan Clarke 0477 000 579

[clarkes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:clarkes@bigpond.net.au)

Church Office 9744 7476

*If you wish to see Stan, please phone to make an appointment. (Monday is Stan's day off)*

### Pastoral Support Worker

Audrey Kateena 0435 064 088

### Church Council Chairperson

Lorraine McLaren 0402 277 341

### Church Council Secretary

Tim Hay 0416 793 728

### Youth United

[jenmcad@msn.com](mailto:jenmcad@msn.com)



### Crèche

Helen Hall 0407 506 507

*A Crèche operates in the Church Hall (the rear of this building) when needed*

**OR** *feel free to sit in the carpeted area (back row) with your children.*



### Sunday Bulletin Editor

Helen Hall 9744 3031

or 0407 506 507

[helenhall88@gmail.com](mailto:helenhall88@gmail.com)

*Deadline for contributions:  
12 noon Thursday*

### Website and Facebook

<http://sunburyunitingchurch.org.au>

[www.facebook.com/SunburyUnitingChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SunburyUnitingChurch)

### Postal Address

PO Box 784, Sunbury 3429

## ISAIAH 58:1-9a (9b-12)

**S**hout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12 (13-16)

**W**hen I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.



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