



Toorak Uniting Church

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Still Thinking: Holy Week by Christopher Page

Hold your breath because the Christian Church is about to crowd into one week its entire theology of life, death, Jesus, God, hope, suffering, soteriology (salvation) pneumatology (Holy Spirit) and many other themes and discourses; and that is because we are about to celebrate the centre of the Christian Faith. While our culture likes to see Christmas as what names the followers of Jesus, it is in fact the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth that forms and shapes the Christian way of life.

Today we begin by retelling the “passion story.” The word passion is an old Latin word that has its roots in the idea of suffering, while its meaning today is more akin to love or affection. The Passion Week begins with Palm or sometimes called, Passion Sunday. We follow the narrative as Jesus moves into Jerusalem mounted on a donkey proclaimed a king, albeit a king of a very different kind. Then we will gather again on Thursday evening for our Tenebrae Service to remember the final hours of Jesus’ life. Good Friday morning will find us at the foot of the cross. We come as witnesses to a brutal act of violence perpetrated on an innocent man. The cross, while often used as the central symbol of Christian faith, does not singularly name us. It is the Sunday morning experience of resurrection that forms us as individuals and as a Christian Community

However, there is a temptation to turn our eyes away from the passion/suffering of Jesus and rush toward Easter Day and its emphasis on light, life and lilies. But to be true to life, suffering must be both faced and endured. The onus is on us to watch and wait and to have solidarity not only with the dying Jesus, but with all who suffer in our world today.

While many in the Christian world see the death of Jesus as what has been called a “vicarious substitutionary atonement” a better way to participate as witnesses to the death of Jesus is to observe that he died as he lived and that his life gave his death purpose. It is unhelpful to picture Jesus as being born in order to die. Instead his death is, like it is for all of us, woven into the fabric of his life. He died

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.

as he lived with the words of forgiveness on his lips and resilience in his heart. But while Jesus' death was a truly human death, there is also the powerful presence of God here at the end of his life. From the Gospels we understand that Jesus held the view that God could be imaged as a loving Father – Abba Father. This relationship with God was as a son is to a father. To the very end it was that personal relationship that defined Jesus, even to the point of declaring, when that relationship felt distant, the words of Psalm 22, “my God, my God why have you forsaken me,” – a truly human prayer.

For these next few days we will be witnesses to the drama of life that has given birth to the Christian movement; like most births and experiences of new life it emerges from struggle, suffering and pain.



Ecumenical Witness Walk

will commence at 11:30am on Good Friday. It starts at St John's, passes the Swedish Church and St Peter's and finishes at Toorak Uniting for Hot Cross Buns, tea and coffee. Everyone is welcome to join in with our sisters and brothers from the Toorak Churches.

Meeting of the Congregation and Call for Nominations

A meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday 17 April immediately after the 10.15 service. The agenda will be to elect various office holders, to receive the annual report for 2015, and to approve the annual financial report for 2015. Copies of these reports will be available from 3 April.

Nominations are called for the positions of **elder and non-elder member of Church Council**. Nominations are also called for the positions of **chair and secretary of the Congregation**, as the current term of the existing incumbents expires on June 30. Members considering accepting nomination for all these positions are invited to discuss the duties with the minister before accepting nomination. Nomination forms are available from the office and must be returned to the office by Wed. 30 March at 12.00 noon.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE OVERDUE!

Please email to the office

Diary Dates

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| Fri | 25 Mar | 11.30am | Good Friday Witness Walk—leaves from St John's and finishes at TUC with hot cross buns to follow |
| Thu | 31 Mar | 10.00am | Prayers For Christian Unity |
| Sun | 17 Apr | 11.15am | Congregation AGM |
| Wed | 20 Apr | 8.00am | Autumn Congregational Breakfast |
| Sat | 30 Apr | 4-8pm | Kinross fundraising Scottish Dance |

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:30pm – Service of Readings and Music

Good Friday, March 25

10:15am Good Friday *Note time change!*

The story of the cross through readings and music

Easter Sunday, March 27

10:15am Easter Service *No 9am Service*

Theme: Life's Great Contradictions

Church Fundraising Stall

Our thanks to those who baked and bought. We raised \$553.52 for Church funds! *Lyn & Lenore.*

In our thoughts and prayers:

Chris Begg, following a fall and subsequent operation on his knee. Chris is now recovering at home.

TUC Film Night

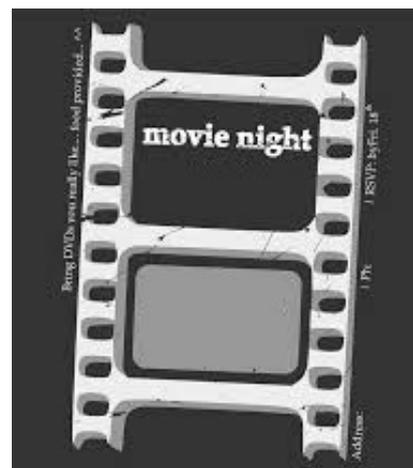
We warmly invite all members of the congregation (and friends of the congregation, as well as new friends) to TUC's first youth-led movie night and discussion. We will be screening the film *Electrick Children* (written and directed by Rebecca Thomas, who was nominated for the Someone to Watch Award at the 2013 Independent Spirit Awards) in the Faichney Room on Sunday May 22, with tea and coffee being offered from 5pm and a 5:30 show time. There will be pizza served after the movie, followed by a group discussion about the film, how it resonated with you and how you see it as connected (or not connected) to your faith.

While this is a youth-led event, we hope that people of all ages and backgrounds will be keen to attend, to both experience the film and offer their thoughts and perspectives in the discussion afterwards. If you're not sure whether the film or the event as a whole is for you, feel free to talk to Anna Field, Kristen Field, McKenzie Duncan, or Chris Page to get a better idea of what the film is like and what we're hoping to achieve with this inaugural event. We'd also love to hear what you'd like to get out of the night and any suggestions you might have!



Morning Tea:

An opportunity for warm fellowship within our TUC congregation is offered each week as we gather for **morning tea following the 10.15am service**. A small band of congregants serves the tea and coffee regularly, but we are in need of two more people to commit to helping on the first Sunday of each month. It is a good way to greet your fellow parishioners and we have a group of 'emergency contacts' to assist on an occasion when you might need a substitute. If you are willing to offer your service, please contact Christine Brown on 9822 9242..



Final week of Angela Abbott's exhibition: "For the Beauty of the Earth". This has been a wonderful exhibition to host and we thank Angela for her quality contribution to the cultural program at Kinross Arts Centre. On top of creating a beautiful exhibition Angela has helped sit the gallery, bring new visitors to the Centre and provide an excellent artist talk. Exhibition closes March 24th.

Easter Opening Hours:

Manse Gallery Cafe will be closed for the Easter holidays(March 25 - April 3). Kinross Arts Centre Office will open March 29th—31st and April 5th—April 7th.

The next exhibition being presented at Kinross is entitled "**Tempering the Iconic**" by the School of Iconography and Mural Painting. this will feature up to 50 individual icons by artists such as Anna Prifti and Maddie Felder. April 14th - May 27th.

Scottish Dance - Saturday 30th April; 4pm - 8pm. This is an event for all age groups. Scottish Dance Caller - Matthew Robertson will guide you through each dance. Celtic Fiddle Guru - Colin Macleod will MC the event including a raffle with great prizes such quality tartan scarves from the House of Scotland. To book just got to www.trybooking.com/KOTE



Caledonia
Ceilidh Band
& Colin
MacLeod -
Scottish Fiddle
Guru

Special Fundraising Event

Ceilidh - Scottish Dance
Saturday 30th April 2016

**Fabulous Live Music, Dancing
and Scottish Fayre**
4pm - 8pm

Toorak Uniting Church Hall
603 Toorak Road, Toorak
(opposite Irving Road; Tram Stop 39)

\$30 Adult or \$50 for 2 people
\$20 Concession ; \$60 Families

Bookings
<http://www.trybooking.com/KOTE>
Enquiries 03 9829 0340
Email manager@kinrossarts.org.au
www.kinrossarts.org.au

On Sunday 15 May, there is going to be a special organ recital at TUC to pay tribute to organ builder the late Peter Collins who died in October last year. The pipe organ at TUC is the largest of the 10 instruments that Collins had built for Australia. Jennifer Chou and guest artist Colin Andrews from the USA will perform organ works for four hands and feet.

While we are so lucky to have Colin Andrews to perform with Jennifer as part of his Australian concert tour, Colin needs a bed for two to three nights before/ after the concert. If you are able to offer accommodation to Colin, please speak with Jennifer after the service or call her at 0410 844 552. Walking distance to TUC being ideal (anything up to 20-25 minutes on foot is fine), or short train or tram ride from TUC.