

Toorak Uniting Church

Update 5 February 2017

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Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am

Still Thinking – The Still Point – Christopher Page

Franz Kafka, the 20th century Austrian writer of the influential novel, *The Metamorphosis*, wrote about the struggle we all face in our attempts to have a meaningful life of prayer. He wrote:

*“You need not leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. You need not even listen, simply wait. You need not even wait; just learn to become quiet, and **still**, and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked. It has no choice; it will roll in ecstasy at your feet.”*

Stillness and being still seems to be the most important aspect of prayer. We may think that the words we say should be central, but often the right words don't come easily. So silence and stillness provide a space in our lives which is deeper and at times more profound than words.

“Silence,” wrote Fr Thomas Keating, “is God's first language. All other languages are poor translations.” And real stillness and silence are the precursors to action which can save us from reaction. My mother was fond of saying that if you were angry then stop and count to 10. Sometimes that works. The truth in those words is that considered actions always trump emotive reactions.

The Chinese Taoist philosopher Lao Tzu once said. “Muddy water, let stand, becomes clear.” So to quote the Buddhists, “Don't just **do** something, sit there!” Pause; be silent; be still and then the river of life will flow.





Julian Burnside to Speak at Ewing Memorial Centre

Julian Burnside AO SC will be featured at a Progressive Christian Network of Victoria public address at the Ewing Memorial Centre, cnr of Burke Rd and Coppin St, East Malvern at 3.00pm on Sunday 19 February. Mr Burnside is a senior barrister at the Melbourne Bar and a prominent critic of Australia's treatment of asylum seekers, especially those who have arrived here as "boat people". He will give his views on the present Commonwealth policies and processes and suggest what should be done to create a more humane system for dealing with refugees. There will be ample time for Q&A and public discussion. Admittance \$7 (PCNV members \$5) with net proceeds going to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

Interfaith Service, Sunday 12 February, 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm, Toorak Uniting Church

An interspiritual inclusive Service with glorious music.

All welcome!

Master percussionist David Jones and acclaimed
ABC meditation artist Carmen Warrington.

Celebrating the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

2017 Planned Giving Envelope Sets are now available.

Please consider joining the TUC Planned Giving Stewardship Programme.

Contact Stan Lauger: 9813 5242 / 0427 401 299 / stanlauger@acslink.net.au.

Diary Dates

Sun 12 Feb	3.00pm	Interfaith Service	Church
Thu 16 Feb	10.00am	Morning Group AGM & Communion	Church
Thu 23 Feb	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Johns
Sun 26 Feb	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: Relationships	Church
Sun 26 Feb	11.15am	Cong. Mtg: election of Elders & Cong. Chair	Church
Mon 13 Mar		Office Closed—Labour Day holiday	
Sun 19 Mar	10.15am	Service on Death and Dying	Church
Thu 13 Apr	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Church
Fri 14 Apr	10.15am	Good Friday Service	Church
Sun 16 Apr	10.15am	Easter Sunday Service	Church
Tue 25 Apr		Office Closed—ANZAC Day holiday	
Sun 30 Apr	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: ANZAC Day	Church

USE OF THE FAICHNEY ROOM

Please note that due to renovation of the John Macrae Centre building, the JMC program will be run in the Faichney Room during January and February. The renovations are due to be completed by 3 March. Fingers crossed!



In our thoughts and prayers:

The families and friends of Robin Stewardson, Lorna Handbury, Rosemary McCallum and Lois Iljin, all of whom passed away in the past two weeks.

CONGREGATION MEETING AND ELECTION OF ELDERS

A Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday 26th February 2017 immediately after the 10.15am service. The purpose of the meeting will be the election of elders and the election of a new Chairman of the Congregation.

Nomination forms for these positions are available from the Church Office and must be returned to the Church Office by **12.00 noon on Friday 10th February 2017.**

If there is any church member you would like to suggest, please contact the Minister. Members considering nomination may also wish to discuss the duties with the Minister.

MUSIC NOTES:

- ♪ The choir will resume singing in the 10.15am service on Sun. 19 Feb.
- ♪ Andrew Blackburn and Jean Penny will be guest performers in the annual Lady White Memorial Organ Recital on Sunday 21 May 2017 at 2pm. Please save the date now for this special concert. Andrew is a former Director of Music of TUC. He and Jean will share with us magnificent music written for organ and flute.

The cut-off time for **notices** for Update and the Orders of Service is Thursday at 1:00pm. Please send all contributions via email to office@toorakuc.org.au .

Happy New Year and welcome back to Kinross Arts Centre and its special events and exhibitions. 2017 promises to be an exciting and enriching year with diverse exhibitions such as the Blake Prize tour and much more.

RE-EMERGENCE by Judi Singleton

Our first exhibition for the year opens on Sunday 5th February, 3pm-5pm. Enjoy live music and drinks with the artist and her family.

Judi Singleton is a Roar Artist working with oils and ceramics. Her work explores her journey of illness and recovery and a 're-emergence' into the art world and exhibiting again.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE 64th BLAKE PRIZE at Kinross Arts Centre & TUC

Would you like to help with the 64th Blake Prize exhibition and symposium in April and May 2017? Tasks include welcoming visitors; guided tours; assisting with special events and promoting the exhibition to a wide audience. All volunteers will be trained and briefed on March 22 and will receive an information pack including free catalogue about the artwork. A thank you event for volunteers will be held on Thursday 25th May. Exhibition Dates: April 7th - May 26th
Symposium Dates: May 11th - 13th
Please email Lyndel on manager@kinrossarts.org.au to express your interest in helping out with this major event in 2017.



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.