

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 17 November 2024

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Phone 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10:15am

The deadline for Update submissions is 3pm on the Tuesday prior



St. Jack's Outreach Needs Our Help

Since 2006, St. Jack's Outreach, a program of St. John's Anglican Church in Malvern East, has gathered 15-20 people nearly every Friday at the church hall for food, friendship, and fellowship. Guests come from diverse backgrounds; some face homelessness, while others are socially or financially vulnerable. This supportive community has fostered strong bonds and offers a safe space for guests to seek advice or connect to further help when needed.

Food is provided by Oz Harvest, Cabrini Hospital, and non-perishable contributions from their church congregation, with a dedicated team of six volunteers ensuring guests enjoy a nourishing meal prepared by the church chef. With Christmas approaching—a challenging time for many—St. Jack's will host a special holiday lunch and provide gift hampers. **They are seeking donations of non-perishable foods, Christmas treats like tinned hams and puddings, and essential items like toothpaste and deodorant.** Donations can be dropped off at the TUC office and will be greatly appreciated.

TOORAK UNITING CHURCH

GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

To be held at 9:45am on Sunday 1st December 2024 in the Faichney Room

A General Meeting of the Congregation will be held at 9:45am on Sunday, 1st December 2024 in the Faichney Room.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Election of two representatives to Presbytery for 2025.*
2. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Budget for 2025.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the re-appointment of Peter Corrigan as auditor.

Copies of the Budget will be sent out to members by email. Please contact the Church Office if you would like a printed copy.

*Nominations may be made on the form available from the Church Office.

Photography Reminder—THIS SUNDAY

A friendly reminder that this **Sunday, 17 November during both the 9am and 10:15am church services**, a photographer will be there to take photographs to use for our new website. We thank you for your patience and apologise for any inconveniences!

Save the Date - TUC Christmas Party!

All are invited to TUC's Christmas party on Friday, 13 December at 6pm.
More details to come. To RSVP, please email office@toorakuc.org.au



Lenten Bible Study

Money Talks: Capitalist Ethics, Colonialism and Divine Governance: Coventry Press by Creative Ministries Network member, Rev John Bottomley.

Money Talks engages the lectionary Psalms and gospel texts for Lent 2025. The studies acknowledge it is not possible for a disciple of Jesus Christ to replace the worship of God with the worship of wealth.

TUC in PPPE's Newsbeat!

Presbytery of Port Phillip East's November edition of their newsletter, *Newsbeat*, has released a wonderful article about Rev Sylvia's induction as our Minister of the Word. Newsbeat can be found on the Presbytery's website, otherwise please email office@toorakuc.org.au for a copy.

End the Silence: Interfaith Prayers for Violence Prevention within the home and the community - a powerful evening of unity, reflection, and hope

Sunday, 24 November | 7pm AEDT | Zoom

Violence affects all communities, yet patterns show a concerning reality: in Australia, 95% of those affected by violence experience harm at the hands of men. **So far this year, 71 women in Australia have perished as a result of domestic violence.** United Religions Initiative and Religions for Peace Australia invite you to be part of a gathering with prayers, a presentation, and an open discussion on how our faith, spiritual, and ethnic communities can stand against violence and support women, children, and families at risk.

The evening will feature prayers and reflections from Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh faith leaders from New Zealand and Australia, inspiring talks on community action to protect and uplift, and open dialogue for ideas and shared commitments to safety. All welcome to consider how people of faith and faith communities can end domestic violence.

Register on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApf-ihpjMpHtGk4Wm7Kzy7BUwhtHtEQN1F>

Meeting ID: 844 8198 8345

TUC Flower Roster 2025

If you're interested in contributing to Sunday worship by providing flowers for the service, please contact Jay on office@toorakuc.org.au. Whether doing it for the first time, or wanting to do contribute again in 2025, we'd love to hear from you.
We thank you for your generous contributions and interest!

Sean Winter's Farewell

**Service to commence at 4pm,
Friday 29th November**

Location: Yuma Auditorium, Centre for Theology & Ministry,
29 College Crescent, Parkville VIC 3002

Followed by refreshments and conversation.

Sean, with his family, moved from the UK to Melbourne in 2009, for him to assume the role of New Testament Lecturer with the Uniting Church, as part of the United Faculty of Theology. He was instrumental in the establishment of Pilgrim Theological College in 2015, and commenced as its Head of College in 2017. Sean's theological and biblical reflections have inspired and grounded meetings of the Synod and many other parts of the Uniting Church.



Registrations are now open via Humanitix, by clicking on the link below.
<https://events.humanitix.com/conclusion-of-placement-service-for-sean-winter>

Please save the following dates for Christmas services at TUC:

- December 15 - Last 9am Service
- December 22 - Service of Lessons & Carols
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Carols
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
- December 25 - Christmas Day Service

Heads, Hearts and Hands: What can dialogue do for us?

**In a world torn by violence, dissension, othering and hatred,
is there a role for dialogue?**

In February 2025, The Australian Council of Christians and Jews invites you to a three-day Gathering of people from Australia and New Zealand engaged and interested in interfaith dialogue and encounter. This event will take place in conjunction with a visit from the board of International Council of Christians and Jews.

Attendees will have a unique opportunity to hear from local and international speakers providing diverse perspectives on the nature of dialogue and the current challenges facing Christian Jewish dialogue. There will be opportunities for conversation, reflection and participation in practical workshops.

The Gathering will provide opportunities for sharing information and theory (heads), emotional responses (heart), and practical action (hands) as we consider the question, "What can dialogue do for us?"

When: 2-7pm, Sunday 2 February - Tuesday, 4 February (8:45am - 5pm)

Where: Trinity College Theological School, 100 Royal Parade, Parkville

Exhibition: **Madonna—Wisdom, Grace and Compassion**

Ursula Betka | Margaret Gibson
November 18 –December 6, 2024

Open Saturdays, November 23 & 30 with the artists

Experience the sacred reverence of the Madonna through the masterful works of Ursula Betka and Margaret Gibson. Drawing from Renaissance and Byzantine traditions, this exhibition features exquisite egg tempera and gilded wood panel paintings of the Madonna, inviting spiritual contemplation.



Opening Celebration and Book Launch

Friday, November 22, 6-8pm. Free.

Dr. Ursula Betka will launch her new book *Techniques of Painting and Gilding in Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Italy*. Join master of ceremonies Mary McGillivray and Caroline Field, Curator of the ACU Art Collection.

RSVP to director@kinrossarts.com.au.

Artist's Demonstration by Dr. Ursula Betka. Admission \$30, limited spaces.

Thursday, November 28. **Session 1:** 11am-12pm; **Session 2:** 1pm-2pm

Experience egg tempera painting and gold leaf applications.

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1291214>

Observe artist Margaret Gibson creating icon paintings on November 19, 26, & 30 and December 3.

Image Credit: Margaret Gibson (2023). *The Nativity*, Egg tempera, 23kt gold leaf, gold acrylic on Italian gessoed panel, 25.5x20cm. Source: traditional Orthodox

November Diary

Dates

Sun	17 Nov	9:00am	Site Photography	Service Times
Sun	17 Nov	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev John Edwards
Sun	17 Nov	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev John Edwards
Tue	19 Nov	7:30pm	Discussion Group	Zoom
Fri	22 Nov	6:00pm	Kinross Icon Exhibition Opening	Hodges Gallery
Sun	24 Nov	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	24 Nov	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Tue	26 Nov	7:30pm	Discussion Group	Zoom
Wed	27 Nov	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	28 Nov	11:00am	Ursula Betka Artist Demo	Hodges Gallery



Scan this QR-code for the Zoom link to the 7:30pm
Tuesday evening Discussion Group

(HC) - Holy Communion