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The Uniting Church in Australia
180 Palmerston Street Carlton

Our Nation Mourns



Our nation mourns the tragic events that unfolded at Bondi Beach last Sunday. Families and children who had gathered to celebrate Hanukkah – a festival of light and faith – were instead confronted with terror and loss. What should have been a time of joy became a scene of fear and heartbreak.

The Uniting Church in Australia expresses profound sorrow and stands in solidarity with those affected, reaffirming our unwavering opposition to hatred and antisemitism. “We reaffirm our commitment to

stand with our Jewish friends against hatred, violence and fear,” said President Rev Charissa Suli.

This week, the Moderator for the NSW and ACT Synod, Rev Faaimata Havea Hiliau and Uniting Church ministers have been on hand in Bondi with the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network, showing Christ’s love, compassion and comfort to those in need.

As a Church, we unite in prayer and reflection for those who are grieving – the families, children, the injured, first responders and all affected by this tragedy.

The President’s statement, along with pastoral messages and prayers from church leaders both locally and abroad offering solace and encouragement, can be found in the link below.

Together, as a nation and as a Church, we remember: fear and hate will never have the final word. Love conquers all. The Light shines on in the darkness.

COME AND SHARE IN THE FAREWELLS AS WE CELEBRATE

RAY GORMANN’S RETIREMENT & 40 YEARS OF ORDINATION

Sunday 21 December 2025
 10am for worship followed by morning tea.

Carlton Uniting Church (Church of All Nations)
 180 Palmerston St, Carlton

RSVP to sue@clarkson.id.au

Advent/Christmas worship with Church of All Nations

☺ **Sun 14 Dec 10.00 am:**

Music, music, music! Singers & Instrumentalists add a touch of **Handels' Messiah** to **Advent 3!**



☺ **Wed 17 Dec 2.00 pm:**

CAN choir sings in monthly worship at **Redmond Park Retirement Village**, 300 Pigdon St Princes Hill

☺ **Sun 21 Dec 10.00 am:**

Advent 4 (Sun before Christmas) is our Service of **Lessons & Carols** at Church of All Nations; a display of the **Advent lanterns** being prepared by each household; AND a local **honouring of Ray Gorman's time** as Minister with Church of All Nations. (The official 'cutting of ties' by the Presbytery will be in **Ray's last service on 28 Dec.**)




☺ **Thurs 25 Dec 9.00 am:**

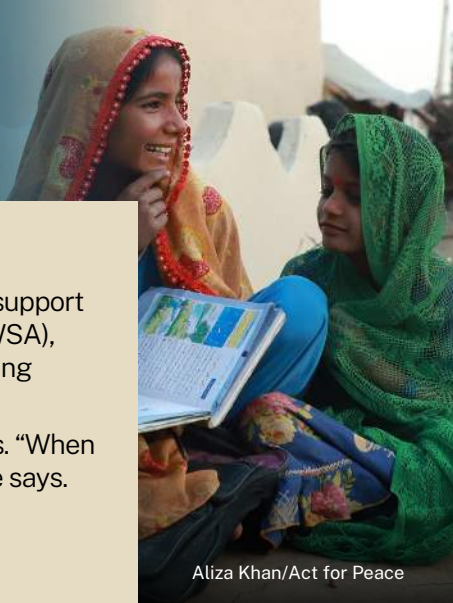
Christmas Day worship with choir participation; and a Christmas **treat** as you depart, taking your **lantern** home.

Supply Ministry in 2026

Alister Pate, the .6 minister at Northcote Uniting, has been engaged to provide some supply ministry at CAN, beginning in mid January. Alister will spend a couple of days a week at CAN, mainly involved in leading worship and some pastoral care. Speak to Sue Clarkson, secretary of the Church Council, for any queries regarding arrangements or other matters regarding CAN and the future.



WEEK 5: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

In rural Pakistan, many girls still face barriers to education. With support from Act for Peace’s partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA), families are learning about the importance of schooling and gaining access to healthcare and training.

Sunia proudly shares how her daughter’s courage inspired others. “When my daughter began attending school, other girls started too,” she says. Your gift helps more girls receive the education they deserve.

Aliza Khan/Act for Peace



CAN Community Support

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

December 25
10 am - 12 pm

Drop-In centre
(Behind 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton).

For people spending Christmas alone.

Cake, refreshments, and light snacks available!

CAN Community Support



Moderator Releases Christmas Video Message

In his first Christmas video message as Moderator, Rev Salesi Faupula invites us to journey together towards hope in a sometimes restless world. “This Advent, I’ve been reflecting on what it means for us to be Pilgrims of the Spirit, a Church learning again how to walk by faith through change, uncertainty and renewal,” Salesi says. “That is the heart of our Faithful Futures journey: trusting that even small steps, taken together, can lead us toward God’s larger hope.”

Click [here](#) to view the Christmas



message video (don't click on picture as it will not play).

Click [here](#) for the rest of the Synod news

A Christmas Message From the President

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We're delighted to share news of the 2025 Christmas messages recorded by Uniting Church in Australia President, Rev Charissa Suli. This year, Rev Suli offers two messages reminding us that God's light meets us wherever we are – in both joy and sorrow.

In her main Christmas message, Rev Suli recognises that many are carrying mixed emotions after a year marked by fires, floods, rising costs and global conflicts.

Yet she reminds us that the Christmas story still speaks today: "Do not be afraid. For today, a Saviour is born".

Rev Suli shared glimpses of this light at work – in the red dust of Oodnadatta where an Aboriginal community opened a long-awaited church, in celebrations strengthening ties between Australia and Tonga, and in communities around the world standing for justice and compassion. "Different places, different stories – but the same light, Christ's light," she said.

Rev Suli also shares a "Blue Christmas" message for those finding this season difficult. She encourages the lighting of a candle for those whose absence aches, speaking aloud the names that live in our hearts, and trusting that "God comes not only in our celebration, but also in our pain"

Read the message and other Assembly news by clicking [here](#)



This Week at CAN

- Sunday December 21 @ 10.00 worship at CAN Lessons and Carols
- Sunday December 21 @ 11.15 morning tea to farewell Ray
- Thursday December 25 @ 9.00am (note earlier time) Christmas Day worship
- Sunday December 28, 2025 @ 10.00am worship at CAN including Ray's last service and a "release of pastoral ties" litany led by the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra

CAN Wednesday Communion

The weekly Wednesday Communion by Zoom is going into recess. The last service for 2025 was Wednesday this week and the next one will be Wednesday February 4, 2026. Some of the regular communicants are more than willing to step up and take responsibility for preparing weekly worship and Paul Mayfield will do the official ministerial part of the communion service.

And so Wednesday Communion pushes on - full steam ahead when February rolls by.



CAN worship roster to 4 January 2026:

	Advent 4 PURPLE Lessons & Carols: Choir Ray's farewell	Christmas WHITE Choir	Christmas 1 WHITE Ray's last service	Christmas 2 WHITE HC		Advent 4 PURPLE Lessons & Carols: Choir Ray's farewell	Christmas WHITE Choir	Christmas 1 WHITE Ray's last service	Christmas 2 WHITE HC
<u>Preach</u>	Ray G	Ray G	Ray G	David H	<u>Property</u>	Ken T	Ken T	David J	David J
<u>Liturgy</u>	Pam K	Ray G	Jill T	David H	<u>Offering</u>	Ken T Jason I	Ken T David J	David J Michelle A	David J Jason I
<u>PP Prep</u>	Pam K	Ray G	Jill T	Jill T	<u>Hosp 1</u>	Shirley J	-	Pam K	Jill T
<u>Music</u>	Peter A	Sarah & Danny	Donna C	Donna C	<u>Hosp 2</u>	Jean D	Jill T Shiny I	Leah B	Noyuri L
<u>Camera</u>	Prebin A	-	Prebin A	-	<u>Flowers</u>	Jill T	Shirley J	Jill T	Shirley J
<u>Read</u>	Prit S	Shirley J	Jean D	Mac N	<u>HC</u>	-	-	-	Leah B
<u>AV</u>	Ken T	Prebin A	David J	David J	<u>Chn Min</u>	School Holidays	School Holidays	School Holidays	School Holidays
<u>Greet</u>	Jill T	Shirley J Mac N	Leah B	Noyuri L					

Christmas Carols at Festival Hall

Hillsong Church have become partners in the life of CAN Community Support. They send volunteers once a month to cook a really delicious meal at the Wednesday Community lunch, and again this year are donating Christmas hampers for distribution. Also this year they have donated free tickets for free tickets for Carols at Festival Hall on December 21. There are three shows and we have complimentary tickets for all three times of 11.00am, 2.00pm and 5.00pm.

See Ray if you would like a ticket, or even a few.

Congregation Collaborative Project

How is **your** lantern progressing?

Our hope is at least 1 lantern from each household will be in the display for worship at CAN on **21 September**, & on **Christmas Day**.

Do you need any help? Why not ask a friend to do the cutting out for you, after you've coloured in the design?

Last chance this Sunday 14th to pick up a template, & complete your contribution this coming week.

Remember tealights await you at church, to be inserted when each lantern is hung.



CAN worship roster for January 2026:										
	4 Jan 26 WHITE Christmas 2	11 Jan 26 WHITE Christmas 3	18 Jan 26 GREEN Christmas 4 <i>MtE guests @ CAN</i>	25 Jan 26 GREEN Christmas 5 <i>Day of Mourning</i>		4 Jan 26 WHITE Christmas 2	11 Jan 26 GREEN Christmas 3	18 Jan 26 GREEN Christmas 4 <i>MtE guests @ CAN</i>	25 Jan 26 GREEN Christmas 5 <i>Day of Mourning</i>	
	HC					HC				
Preach	David H	Combined Worship With Mark the Evangelist Uniting Church @ Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville	Peter Blackwood	Alister Pate		Property	David J	Combined Worship With Mark the Evangelist Uniting Church @ Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville	Brendan C	Ken T
Liturgy	David H		?	Jill T		Offering	David J Jason I		Ken T Brendan C	Brendan C Ethan K
PP Prep	Jill T		Jill T	Jill T		Hosp 1	Jill T		Pam K	Shirley J
Music	Donna C		Donald Nicolson	Glen W		Hosp 2	Noyuri L		Noyuri L	Leah B
Camera	-		Jeff J	-		Flowers	Shirley J		Jill T	Shirley J
Read	Mac N		Michelle A	Jean D		HC	Leah B		-	
AV	David J		Ken T	Prebin A		Chn Min	<i>School Holidays</i>		<i>School Holidays</i>	Kate E Mark S
Greet	Noyuri L		Pam K	Prit S						

CAN Bulletin

This edition of the CAN bulletin will be the last one until it resumes again in February 2026. Have a super Christmas season and hopefully a bit of a break over January. Grace Hornsby from Carlton Community Support will be taking up editorship duties next year. She ably filled in while Ray was on holidays in November this year so you will be in good hands.

Carlton Community Support

Carlton Community Support is taking a break from December 23, 2025 until January 11, 2026

CAN Worship Services in January 2026

As you can see from the roster above we have organised worship in January as follows-

Jan 4 - David Howie from our CAN congregation will lead the service, including Holy Communion

Jan 11 - combined worship with Mark the Evangelist at Mark the Evangelist, led by Rob Gotch, a retired UCA minister

Jan 18 - combined worship with Mark the Evangelist at CAN led by Peter Blackwood, a retired UCA minister (Mark the Evangelist minister, Craig Thompson, is on holidays these two weeks.) This is our regular shared lunch so bring something extra for our guests.

Jan 25 - first service led by Alister Pate who is providing supply ministry for 6 months. Day of Mourning theme as is usual on Sunday before Australia Day

CAN Congregation

Offerings to the Church of All Nations Parish Mission.

Your offerings support the ministry and mission of the congregation. The Congregation budget contributes the major component of the Community Support budget as well as ministry costs and other mission support.

Offerings can be made during the church service OR by regular bank transfer.

Bank transfers can be regular as weekly, fortnightly, monthly Offerings, OR as an occasional offering

Bank details are:

Bendigo Bank BSB 633000 Account No.:191446954

Name: Church of All Nations of Carlton



Bible Readings

We are using material from A Sanctified Art through Advent so these readings are not from the Revised Common Lectionary

This Sunday December 21 Lessons and Carols

December 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Link for live streaming the 10.00am Service

Here is the link to watch the 10.00am service live on the church's Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to watch. <https://www.facebook.com/CarltonChurchOfAllNations>

We will continue to offer this option for those who may be uncomfortable attending in person for whatever reason - health, mobility, geography, whatever...

Donations to CAN Community Support

Donations to CAN Community Support are tax deductible and can be made in person to CAN Community Support Administration Office (Tuesday – Thursday) in the CAN Centre, OR by Bank transfer as follows: Bank details are:

Bendigo Bank: BSB 633000 Account No.: 191170380

Name: CAN Community Support

