



CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

**The Uniting Church in Australia
180 Palmerston St Carlton**

Contact details

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 Website: www.carlton.ucavictas.org.au
[Facebook page](#)
 Pastoral Emergencies: Rev Alister Pate
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 Phone: 03 7019 3135 ext 3



Please continue to send news, photos and event information for the bulletin to contact@cancarlton.org.au before 3pm each Thursday.



The first edition for 2026 of the Uniting Church quarterly magazine is **available now** from the greeting table in the church: all the news of the UCA Synod of Vic-Tas for your interest & information, free!

CAN CHOIR FOR EASTER MUSIC



Jean Evans invites all who love to sing to join in practices commencing **Sat 21st February, 9.30 am in the Church.**

The aim is to sing for special services on:
Palm Sunday 29 March 10.00 am
Good Friday 3 April 9.00 am
Easter Day 5 April 10.00 am

You are welcome to sing in weekly practices, even if not available for all 3 Easter services. To register, email Jean: mj.evans@hotmail.com

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP AT CAN



CAN is planning to start offering a monthly Intergenerational worship service on the fourth Sunday of the month. On the basis of "no talking about us without us", it would be great to get some involvement in planning it - or even just brainstorming ideas.

Let Alister know if you want to know more, or if you are already up for it!
 Email: minister@nuc.org.au
 Phone: 03 7019 3135 ext 3

Wednesday Community Lunches are back!

We resumed meeting for community lunch this Wednesday, kicking things off in festive style with a Peruvian Fiesta - thanks to our friends at Hillsong Church and volunteer Mariela, who has been visiting Australia from Peru! There was music, delicious food, great company and plenty of laughter – you are welcome to join us in Dyson Hall on any given Wednesday at 12pm! We loved welcoming Rev Craig Thompson, Rev Alister Pate and our very own Ken Tabart on Wednesday – thanks for coming!

It was also a wonderful cross-pollination between programs this week when we welcomed Brendan* who is staying at the Indigenous Hospitality House. On a hot Tuesday afternoon Brendan just needed a cold drink, a zooper dooper, a chat, some space to gather his thoughts, and help working out how to get to Birchip to reconnect with community (no mean feat from Carlton with no car!). He is deeply grateful for the support of both CAN and the IHH while he's been in Melbourne on hospital business.

While our larger community pantry was closed, Brendan was able to grab a few essentials from the Little Free pantry. This continues to be an important stop-gap for the community, and a beautiful source of goodwill and mutuality. A bright yellow beacon of happiness in a world that can feel a bit topsy-turvy at times!



Another busy week behind us and we're already feeling the year fly by!

Thanks for the donations of shopping bags – please keep them coming!

*name changed for privacy

Virginia Moebus-Nelson

2026 LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION SESSION INVITATION

As we swiftly move towards the commencement of the academic year in the VicTas Synod, we are offering two online information sessions to hear about all units scheduled for individual certificate learning experiences and degree level units through Pilgrim, and how to register for them.

These units may be of interest to those seeking to develop their own spirituality, people considering or in Lay Ministry programs such as Lay Preacher training, Period of Discernment, or those wishing to develop their leadership skills and knowledge to support their contributions in their local congregations and places of work.

There will be staff available to speak to all available units across 2026 and respond to your questions.

Sessions are as follows: :

Wednesday 4th February 2026, 7:30pm – 8:30pm AEDT

Thursday 5th February 2026, 1pm – 2pm AEDT

These sessions will not be recorded, and prospective attendees will need to complete the attendee confirmation form linked below to receive the zoom link.

[Attendee confirmation – Fill out form](#)



The Uniting Church in Australia
PRESBYTERY OF YARRA YARRA



VICTORIAN MOSQUE OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY

11:00AM - 3:00PM

ALBANIAN MOSQUE

765 DRUMMOND ST, CARLTON NTH

JOIN US FOR FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP!

- All Welcome
- Mosque Tours and Q&A
- Islamic Information Slideshow
- History Exhibition - Melbourne's First Mosque
- Prayer Observation
- Try on a Hijab, Prayer Cap & Albanian Costume
- Kids Craft Activities
- Tea, Coffee & Traditional Albanian Desserts



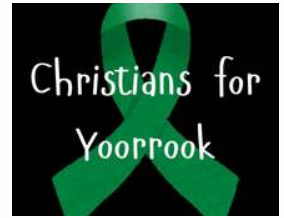
admin@aais.org.au



www.aais.org.au

CHRISTIANS FOR YOORROOK

Christians for Yoorrook will meet online (Teams) to read sections of Yoorrook reports alongside sections of the Bible.



We aim to engage with Yoorrook findings alongside our foundation spiritual text, allowing each to inform the other, to deepen understanding of both.

Dr. Peter Lewis, Acting in Solidarity: The church's Journey with Aboriginal People in Australia, will guide us through the texts; and send out relevant materials each month.

7.30 to 9.00 pm on 2nd Wednesday of each month, commencing Wed 11th February.

To join the discussion, email Matt Bell: mattbell21@gmail.com to confirm your interest, and to receive the link to join each session.

(If this date each month does not work for you, let Matt know; if enough of those interested can't make it, another time could be considered.)

COMBINED CONGREGATIONS LENTEN STUDY

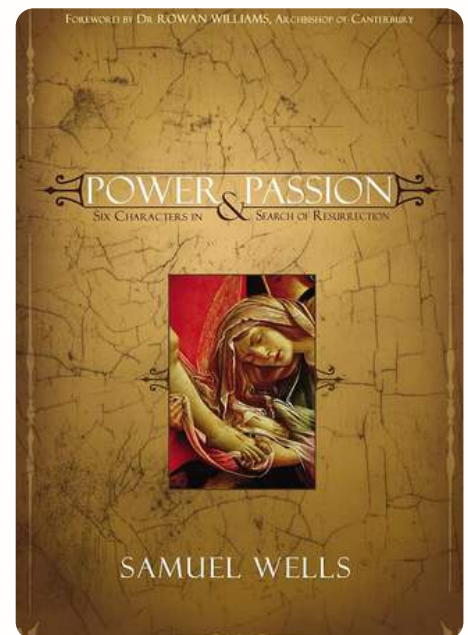
As we have done for several years, members of Church of All Nations join regular book studies online with some from other congregations. Rev Dr Craig Thompson (minister with Mark the Evangelist Uniting Church) leads the discussions.

We're starting this year with a 6-week Lenten study using Sam Wells: Power & Passion – Six characters in search of resurrection.

Two date options are available each week (the same chapter discussed at each) – choose the one which suits you best, starting on:

Wed 18 Feb 7.45 pm or Fri 20 Feb 1.30 pm

To register: email Craig Thompson
craigthompsonxyz@gmail.com



LINK FOR LIVE STREAMING THE 10.00AM SERVICE

The 10.00am service is livestreamed on the church's Facebook page every week - you do not need a Facebook account to watch.

[Click here to watch the service online.](#)



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



From time to time, a familiar concern resurfaces within our life as a Uniting Church, not from outside critics, but from people deeply shaped by this church. It is often spoken with care and concern: *Have we become too focused on social justice? Too concerned with inclusivity, diversity, and unity? We need to sharpen our focus on the Gospel.*

I do not hear this as negative or argumentative, but as an opportunity for discernment. Beneath it, I hear a longing for faithfulness, for reassurance that Jesus Christ truly remains at the centre of all we do. That longing matters. It invites listening rather than defensiveness.

Still, I find myself lingering with the language of sharpening. What do we hope will come into clearer focus? And what do we fear might be slipping out of view?

These questions for me are shaped not only by my formation in the Uniting Church, but also by my Tongan heritage. In the Pacific, boats are not symbols of leisure; they are vessels of trust and survival. To step into a boat is to accept vulnerability, to rely on one another and to read the winds and currents carefully. Journeying is communal, and faith is lived on the move.

The Uniting Church often describes itself as a *Pilgrim people*. That image resonates deeply with me. A pilgrim church does not remain safely anchored. It sets out, trusting that the Spirit leads, even when the weather shifts and the horizon feels uncertain. Pilgrims travel not because everything is resolved, but because God is faithful enough to meet them on the way.

I remember wrestling with this during my training for ministry, particularly when reading 'Where Did the Joy Come From?' by one of our former presidents, Andrew Dutney. What stayed with me then, and still does, is his insistence that joy in the life of the Church does not come from ease or agreement. It comes from costly faithfulness: from staying in the boat together and continuing the journey, even when discipleship stretches us. The Gospel itself is not distant or abstract. In Jesus, God chooses nearness. The Word becomes flesh and enters fully into the unpredictability of human life, its beauty, pain and division. The Gospel does not draw us away from the world; it sharpens our attention to where love is most needed.

If the Gospel is truly the Word made flesh, then justice, inclusion, and unity are not distractions from faithfulness, but places where faithfulness is learned, tested and embodied.

From this place, commitments to inclusivity, diversity, and unity feel less like distractions and more like practices of learning how to travel together. Justice unsettles us not because it is foreign to the Gospel, but because love is costly.

Sharpening our focus on the Gospel does not make the journey easier. It makes it truer.

We do not always navigate well. We disagree, misread the conditions, and fall out of rhythm with one another. Yet we keep returning to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. The cross assures us that God enters suffering fully; the resurrection promises that love has the final word.

Perhaps the deeper question is not whether we need to sharpen our focus on the Gospel, but whether we are willing to let the Gospel keep sharpening us. As *Pilgrims of the Spirit*, the Uniting Church is not called to cling to the shore, but to trust the One who still calls us forward.

CAN worship roster to 22 Feb 2026:

	8 Feb 2026 GREEN Epiphany 5	15 Feb 2026 WHITE Transfiguration	22 Feb 2026 PURPLE Lent 1		8 Feb 2026 GREEN Epiphany 5	15 Feb 2026 WHITE Transfiguration	22 Feb 2026 PURPLE Lent 1
<u>Preach</u>	Matt Julius	Alister P	Alister P	<u>Property</u>	Ian B	Brendan C	David J
<u>Liturgy or Prayers</u>	Matt J	Jean D	Pam K	<u>Offering</u>	Ian B Brendan C	Ken T Ethan K	David J Shiny I
<u>PP Prep</u>	Matt J	Alister P	Pam K	<u>Hosp 1</u>	Jean E	Pam K	Shirley J
<u>Music</u>	Jean E	Glen W	Donna C	<u>Hosp 2</u>	Brendan C	Noruyi L	Shiny I
<u>Camera</u>	Bruce W	Bruce W	Ethan K	<u>Flowers</u>	Greta B	Jill T	Shirley J
<u>Read</u>	Shirley J	Michelle A	Leah B	<u>HC</u>	-	-	-
<u>AV</u>	Ian B	Ken T	David J	<u>Chn Min</u>	Katie E Fiona M	Jill T Shiny I	Jill T Ken T
<u>Greet</u>	Jill T	Shirley J Mac N	Leah B				

THIS WEEK AT CAN

- Saturday 7 Feb @ 11.00am - 3.00pm** - Albanian Mosque Open Day, Drummond St
- Sunday 8 Feb @ 10.00am** - Worship: preacher is Matt Julius from Northcote UC
- Wednesday 11 Feb @ 7.45am** - Holy Communion online (see below for link)
- Wednesday 11 Feb @ 7.30am-9.00pm** - Christians for Yoorrook monthly study 1 online
- Sunday 15 Feb @ 10.00am** - Worship: commissioning of Elders & Church Councillors
- Sunday 15 Feb @ 12.00pm** - Pastoral Carers meet at CAN following worship

EARLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION

Every Wednesday from 7.45 to 8.15 am - all are welcome to participate in this weekly, quiet, reflective service online.

Each provides their own piece of bread & wine/juice.

A fresh zoom link is being used for 2026:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86729575044?pwd=4o9MhCnwWtQAWX6c0qMHaqGDa9THbP.1>

Meeting ID: 867 2957 5044

Passcode: 404804



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:

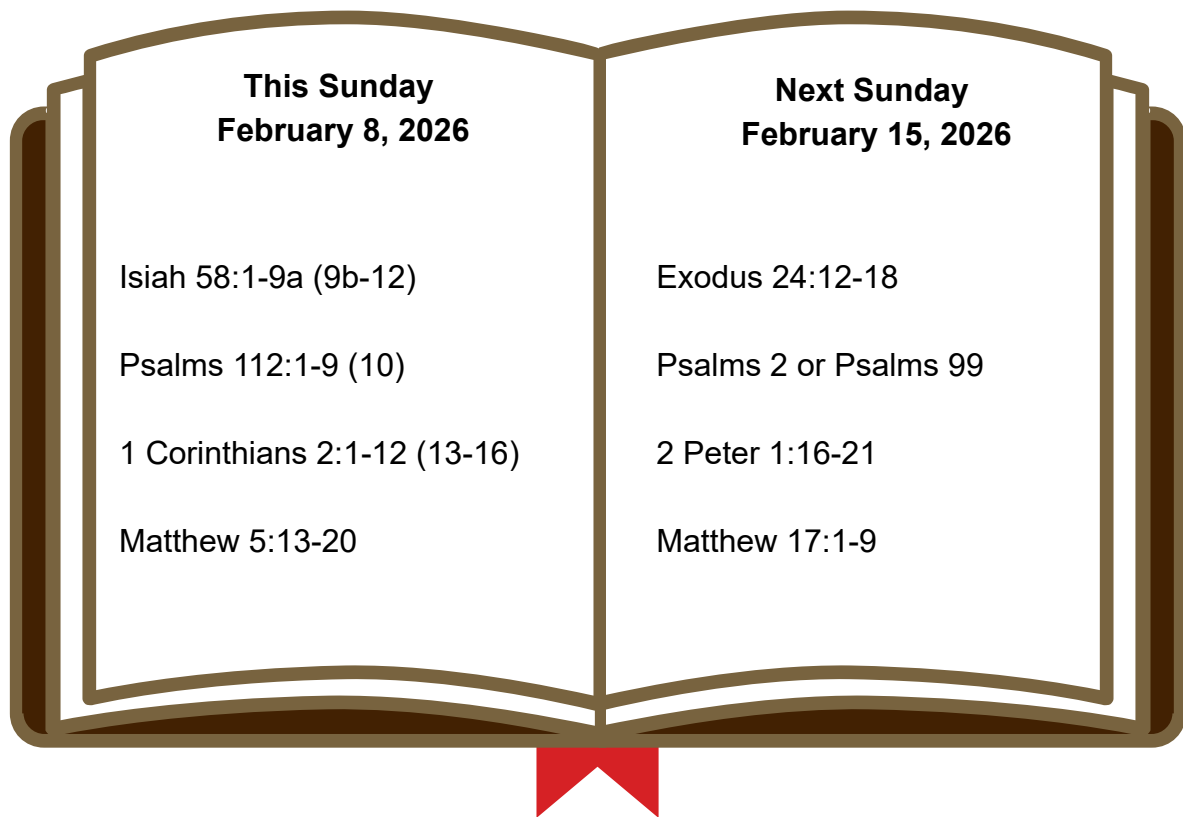
Bendigo Bank BSB: 633000

Account No: 191446954

Name: Church of All Nations of Carlton



Lectionary Bible Readings



Donations to CAN Community Support

Donations to CAN Community Support are tax deductible and can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/canparishmission, in person at CAN Community Support's Administration Office (Tuesday - Thursday) in the CCS Centre, OR by bank transfer as follows:

Bendigo Bank BSB: 633000

Account No: 191170380

Name: CAN Community Support

