

Uniting Events

The Geelong Uniting Churches - combined Pentecost Service

The service is **open to all**, and will be held at **10am on the 19th of May**, at **'The Dome'** - Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong.

The Uniting Churches across Geelong are combining together to celebrate Pentecost; the Sunday when we observe the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

This day is also integrated with the wearing of something **red**; to represent the Holy Spirit descending on the people like 'tongues of flame'.

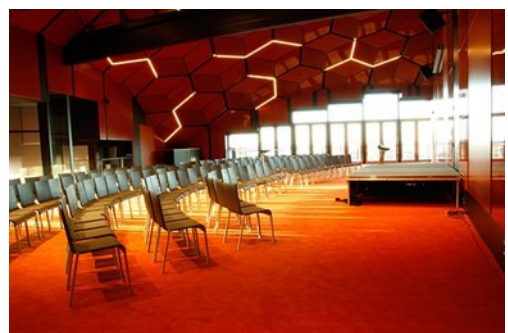
Celebrating the Holy Spirit: **'Sofia Wisdom'**
(Honouring the feminine aspects of God)

Don't forget to wear something **Red**

The service will be followed by a shared morning tea.

The service will be **Live-Streamed** for those unable to attend in person (details will be made available on the Presbytery Facebook page).

For more information, please contact Jeanne on 0432284279



St. Albans — St Andrew's

Lectionary Group - we meet every Thursday morning: 10-11:30am to discuss the coming Sunday's lectionary readings, morning tea provided - (all welcome).

Men's indoor carpet bowls - held monthly on the third Monday of each month - 1:30-2:30pm - the next event is on the 15th of April. For more info contact Geoff on 0418 549 751.

Mainly Music - is run on Tuesdays during school term, commencing on the second week back.

Program starts at 10am, followed by snack time (incl cuppa for parents/carers), followed by playtime. \$2.50 per family (negotiable). Next sessions are on the 23rd & 30th of April. For more info contact Rhonda on 0437 241 345, or just turn up.

But a new exciting venture is:

Monthly Games Group - inaugural event is planned for Wednesday the 1st of May, 1-3pm

A time for any members of the community to gather together, play a few games; board games, cards or even Kelly pool, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a chat. We look forward to providing a warm and comfortable place for people to meet other members of the community and have a bit of fun!



Wesley Men's Breakfast,
4th Saturday of each
month from 8.30am all
welcome.

**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

Lunch at Wesley

After our Communion Service
on the first Sunday of the
month, lunch is available.

All most welcome.





What's on at Grovedale Uniting Church - May 2024

Sunday

- **Worship Service:** 9:30am. **Contact:** 0419 165473.
9:30am, May 26: 'Kid's Church'. **Contact:** 0458 726 259.

Tuesday

- **Mainly Music:** 10 am during school term. \$5 per family.
Contact: 0458 726 259.
- **Growth Group (Bible Study):** 7:30pm (school terms).
Contact: 5243 7060

Wednesday

- **Opshop and Bookshop:** 10am-4pm. **Contact:** 0488 435702.

Thursday

- **Prayer Group:** 9:40am in the church. **Contact:** 0419 165473.
- **Craft Group:** 10am (during school term). **Contact:** 52436496.

Friday

- **Opshop and Bookshop:** 10am-3pm. **Contact:** 0488 435702.
- **Messy Church:** 5-7pm. **May 24, 2024.** **Contact:** 0458 726 259.

1st Saturday

- **Opshop and Bookshop:** 10am-2pm. **Contact:** 0488 435702.

grovedale.unitingchurch.org.au.

Facebook: [Grovedale UC Children and Family](#)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Chattels and Chats Op Shop and Bookshop is a ministry of Grovedale Uniting Church.



Run by volunteers from the church and community, we currently open 10– 4 Wednesdays, 10-3 Fridays, and 10-2 on the first Saturday of the month.

Volunteers work in pairs, with a shift lasting 2-3 hours.

As well as providing income for the church, it is a great opportunity to offer a listening ear for those who attend.

We are looking for some new volunteers that would allow us to expand our hours of operation. Could you spare a few hours per week, or fortnight, or month?

If this is something that interests you, please call **Wendy on 0488 435702**.

Thankyou.



BARRABOOL HILLS UCA

WINTER THANKSGIVING SERVICE

GOODS BOTH BOUGHT AND HOMEMADE BLESSED AND
THEN DONATED TO VARIOUS CHARITIES SUCH AS 'COTTAGE BY THE
SEA', 'UNITING CARE', 'ANDREW LOVE CENTRE' etc.,

SUNDAY MAY 19TH 2024 10AM.

ALL WELCOME MORNING TEA AFTERWARDS



St Luke's Chapel Collectibles

St Luke's commitment to be a church that is attempting to live out God's mission in the community is reflected in the way we support newcomers and needy people.

Chapel Collectibles 2023 has been a year full of rewards, happy times, consuming hours of planning and developing our Collectibles, which has become a well recognised retail outlet.

Every sale supports our Refugee Ministry.

During 2023, Collectibles raised \$70,000 from the sale of donated items which has then enabled St Luke's to support Refugees and others in need.

Expenses during the year were directed towards:

Funding St Luke's Community Ministry Worker.

Funding sewing machine service and repairs – Refugee sewing classes.

Funding the testing/tagging of all electrical equipment prior to distribution to Refugees.

Funding Chapel Room shortage needs, to replace church appeals.

Funding necessary incidental items to support Collectible displays.

The Tyro Eftpos machine arrived, keeping us in step with community expectations.

Chapel Collectibles – how it operates:

Many voluntary people make up the Team – some St Luke's members, others from within our Community.

Sales Team.

Wednesday Helpers Team.

Cleaning Team.

Silverware Cleaning Team.

Cutlery sorting Team.

Glass-ware cleaning Team.

Chapel Room weekly re-stock Team.

Men's Shed support.

Our stories, and thank you's were encapsulated monthly in the St Luke's monthly Newsletter during the year and all donors were thanked by letter.

A number of Probus Clubs and other Groups, were welcomed over morning tea, heard our Refugee support story, and toured the Chapel Collectibles.

As we vision towards 2024, we ask for your continued prayers and support and we give thanks to the generosity of families who also understand the needs of those who arrive in Australia, often leaving their homelands due to persecution under distressing and horrible circumstances.

Rae Anderson and Linda Salamy – Collectibles Co-Ordinator.

Mobile: 0413 888 884

13 March 2024.

St Luke's - Chapel Collectibles

Fund Raising for Refugee Families

Our next opening is on 3rd. Friday and Sat in May:

Friday 17th. May between 12 noon and 4.30pm.

Sat 18th. May between 9am and lunch time.

In April our weekend 'helpers' responded with so much energy as we welcomed, chatted with and listened to the large numbers of people who came to our opening. We welcomed many first time visitors which gave us the opportunity to share the story of our Ministry to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and people in need. We raised almost \$6,000.

We displayed lovely collections of: Royal Albert porcelain, Australian pottery, Stuart Crystal, Limoges porcelain, original works of Art, dinner sets, kitchen trays, kitchen chopping boards. The list is never ending, and of course 'Grannies Cupboard' is everyone's viewing delight when precious memories come to the forefront.

Potted Garden Sales: The potted plants are looking good as they come into flower ready for sale. Thank you to Carol, (part of the Helpers Team) for re-arranging the display and attending to the watering. We have two mature Camellia trees at \$70 each for sale

This month, we welcomed Jeannine, another new volunteer from the community, whose task it will be to constantly restock the Chapel Room – last week we had 8 refugee families visit, in one day, and we had an urgent need to restock the bed linen, doonas, crockery and cutlery.

Thank you to Catherine who returned a box of beautifully cleaned silver ware. And thank you to Alison and the 2 Nolas who spent a couple of hours sorting out boxes of kitchen cutlery ready to find a new home amongst refugee families.

Probus Club Tour of Chapel: We have received two new bookings for July and August when we will provide a morning tea welcome, share our refugee support story, and include a tour of the Chapel Collectibles.

Donations – decluttering, downsizing..... The Chapel is open to receive donated items every Wednesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30am.

The Collectibles Team will be ready to welcome you. We receive household items from kitchen cupboards, linen cupboards, linen, bedding, blankets, cushions, lamps. The list is endless.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help, please phone us for a chat.

Linda Salamy and Rae Anderson – Collectibles Co-Ordinator.

Mobile: 0413 888 884

SEASON OF PENTECOST

Between the crucifixion and the day of Pentecost was surely a long-winded period of time for the disciples who were overwhelmed by the death of their teacher and Lord.

In some of the gospel's account, Jesus appeared to his disciples in a locked room and showed them his wounds. In other gospels, not so much is mentioned, except one account tells us that he joined the conversation on the long road unrecognized until he broke bread in front of the two disciples and then he vanished. Reminds me of those unmarked police cars that you can only tell when the red and blue lights are all of a sudden flashing in front of your face. This appearance is more of a distant memory rather than a reality.

Then the rest of the Easter season, is all about bringing this confusion into some form of assurance that the Lord has risen indeed, but we have to look in the right places to experience this resurrection hope in Christ.

Thankfully, the day of Pentecost is an event in which the Holy Spirit was sent as a helper for those who believed but were left confused. However, this helper is even more confusing because nobody really knows what it is and what it looks like, what it does, it especially caused those believers to speak in foreign languages, without going through some sort of language training.

This image of Pentecost does more harm than good when other believers think that being filled by the Holy Spirit is all about speaking in tongues.

Who do we blame?

Being disciples of Christ in the 21st century, sometimes we are as confused as those first disciples of Christ. But it seems to be a necessary confusion that drives and motivates the believers to keep going. I've often thought of those believers who believed in certain ways 500 years ago, if they were here today, I wonder what they think about all those things they've said?

Maybe someone would be saying, "Oh I wish we didn't design the building this way".

It appears that this long period between the crucifixion, Pentecost and beyond, for as much as being a display of doubt and confusion, it is also a unique display of new beginning.

As Pilgrims or Pentecost people, we do not arrive at some sort of certainty, but we are continuing to explore in our search for new beginnings in a variety of ways.

As we transition into the season of Pentecost, here are a couple of questions to help with your own reflection.

In your own personal journey in life and within the church, are you feeling lost or confused by the outcome of any decision?

How, and where do you see the Holy Spirit leading you or your community for the next 12 months?

Rev. Tupe loelu