



Lent

The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

**Welcome to our Sunday Service of worship,
commencing at 9-30am every Sunday**

Lent 4 19 March 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
 Flowers: Debby Hardy
 Coffee/Tea: Debby & Brian Hardy
 Reader: Barbara Smith
 Kids Church: Kerry Lawson
 Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
 Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
 Speaker: Tony McAlinden



Lent 5 26 March 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
 Flowers: Judy Law
 Coffee/Tea: Judy Law & Pauline Terblanche
 Reader: Pauline Terblanche
 Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
 Church Rep: Sherryl Smith
 Worship Leader: Piet Speyers
 Speaker: Frances Davy



Readings from the Lectionary

1 Sam 16:1-13
 Ps 23
 Eph 5:8-14
 Jn 9:1-41

Ezek 37:1-14
 Ps 130
 Rom 8:6-11
 Jn 11:1-45



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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For pastoral needs please contact:

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Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch, Jenni Anderson (Secretary),
 Sherryl Smith & Andrew Telfer

Halls Head Bendigo Bank details for electronic transfers:

A/C Name: Uniting Church in Australia-South Mandurah Congregation

BSB: 633-000 A/C No: 117072207

Please include your name as a reference for the payment.



Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."

Jesus and the Man born Blind

Recently, I ran across a "fascinating list" that carried this intriguing title: "Great Truths About Life That Little Children Have Learned." Let me share a few of these "great truths" with you:



1. "No matter how hard you try you cannot baptize a cat."
2. "When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair."
3. "Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato... or an egg."
4. "You can't trust dogs to watch your food for you."
5. "Don't sneeze when somebody is cutting your hair."
6. "School lunches stick to the wall."
7. "You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk."
8. "Never wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts... no matter how cute the underwear is."

Now, it is virtually certain that the children learned these "great truths" and came to these bold new insights after some dramatic eye-opening experience in their own personal lives. Can't you just see in your mind's eye...some children trying to baptize a cat...and learning full well from that experience that this is just not a good thing to do. The point is clear: A dramatic personal eye-opening experience can give us new insight, new perception, new vision.

On a much deeper level and on a much more positive level, that's precisely what we discover in this amazing story in John 9. A man blind from birth has a dramatic eye-opening experience with Jesus... and talk about new vision, talk about new insight... he is completely and totally healed. He is made whole and he comes back from the pool of Siloam with 20/20 vision,... able to see perfectly for the first time in his life. His transformation is so complete and so dramatic that he even looks a little different. The townspeople see him and say: "Hey, isn't that the blind beggar? He can see now. Is that him? No, it's just someone who looks like him. Couldn't be him," And the formerly blind man says: "It's me alright. I am the man."

But despite being able to see the truth in front of them, many of the Pharisees and his neighbours refused to accept that Jesus had cured the man. The Pharisees called Jesus a sinner, (a sign of things to come). They didn't believe the man and threw him out of the temple (despite him being there at their request). Despite being sighted, they were blind to the message brought by Jesus. Sadly little has changed, with many who enjoy the beauty of a sunset unable to see the glory of God.

[Sermons.com](https://www.sermons.com) (edited)

Dinner & the Movies

Make a date with your beloved to share fish and chips, and a movie on the **1st of April** at South Mandurah Uniting Church. (It's little less romantic, but family and friends are welcome too!)

The movie is "The Most Reluctant Convert" and it's the story of C S Lewis's journey from a hard-boiled atheist to a devout Christian.

COST: \$15 per person - includes fish & chips (battered or grilled), popcorn, an ice cream and the movie. Terrific value!

WHEN: 6-00pm fish and chips, movie starts at 6-30, followed by tea or coffee.

RSVP: PLEASE NOTE: To attend you **MUST** book and pay for the fish and chips **by no later than 5pm Sunday 26th March**

BOOK: To book and pay for the fish and chips, or for more information, contact Kerry Lawson E: rlk1@bigpond.com, M: 0409 885 988 or H: 9583 3603



IN REMEMBRANCE OF IMPORTANT THINGS

A Pastoral Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sweet and precious God,
Almighty and awesome in glory, yet so near and so concerned about our hearts, thank you for knowing and loving us with an everlasting love.
Time and time again, we have messed up and relived the oh-so-common "if you get me out of this, I will never do it again."

We have attempted to bargain a favour on a promissory note that we make void daily.

But thank you God, that even though you know we are headed to sin again, you not only still love us unconditionally, but you offer us forgiveness, the opportunity to have a clean record, a "get out of jail free" card that bears the title: new grace AND mercy every morning.

So, allow us, Oh God, to not become complacent in our daily journey.

Forgive us for not moving as fast as we should have in the past, and for not helping someone in need when we could have.

You have given us the spirit of discernment, but please give us the wisdom to see beyond the transitory things of life and find you and your sustaining presence, that we may be a blessing to others.

You know the silent cries in our hearts, we know that you have already met the need, now God tap into our hearts' true desires.

Touch families, friends, and most importantly our neighbours because when you are blessing our neighbours, we know you are in the neighbourhood and you are headed to our house.

So, thank you, for being sovereign in our lives, giving us the power to speak over our own lives, the lives around us, and to love one another with the love of Christ.

We will continue to give you glory, honour, and praise, believing that your grace is sufficient enough for us, and your love endures forever.

It is in the matchless name of Jesus that we pray. **Amen.**

Harrison Morrow, Lenten Liturgical Resources from Africana Writers,



Towels & Sheets Please

Uniting Aid is one of the caring agencies of the Uniting Church, and provides support to the homeless and disadvantaged in our community. They have launched an appeal for good quality used towels and bedsheets for their clients. If you have some surplus towels or sheets and would like to donate them, please bring them to the church. Also, as Easter is rapidly approaching, please consider donating some Easter Eggs too.

For more information speak to Jenni Anderson M: 0429 120 658
E: jenni.anderson@internode.on.net



Another Perspective

There is a story of a beggar who was sitting across the street from an artist's studio. The artist saw him and thought he would make an interesting portrait study so from a distance he painted the defeated man whose shoulders drooped, and whose eyes were downcast and sad. When he was finished, he took the portrait over to the beggar so he could look at it.

"Who is that?" the beggar questioned. The painting bore a slight resemblance to himself, but in the painting before him he saw a person of dignity, with squared shoulders and bright uplifted eyes, almost handsome! He asked the artist, "Is that me? I don't look like that." But the artist replied, "but that is the person I see in you."

Brett Blair, www.Sermons.com Adapted from New Vision in Christ, by Rev. Michael J. Fish



Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett

M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

OR Any member of the leadership team
(their names are overleaf)



**Happy
birthday**

Aleks Smith Monday 20 March
**God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday**

WELCOME

*A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors.
We trust that you will be blessed during this
time of worship and invite you to fellowship
with us after the service.*

