



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

## Pentecost 21

22 October 2023

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking  
Flowers: Debbie Hardy  
Coffee/Tea: Andrew & Jan Gibson &  
John & Sue Lawrence  
Reader: Andrew Gibson  
Kids Church: TBA  
Church Rep: Jenni Anderson  
Worship Leader: Jenni Anderson  
Speaker: Frances Davy



## Pentecost 22

29 October 2023

Welcome: Peter & Raelyn Punch  
Flowers: Peter Punch  
Coffee/Tea: Sherryl Smith & Judy Law  
Reader: Keith Picking  
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch  
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer  
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer  
Speaker: Doug Burtenshaw



## Who do you belong to?

**Matthew 22:15-22**

Jesus returns to Jerusalem and is challenged on whether to pay taxes to Caesar. Here we have the failed attempt by the Pharisees and Herodians to trap Jesus on what appears to be a political issue: whether it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. Together, it ought to be easy to catch Jesus up. Note the false flattery of their opening remarks: "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth . . ." (22:16). Their own insincerity is palpable. Then, they spring the trap: "Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?" By this time in the day, Jesus sees through their sarcasm to the malice that lies beneath and brands them hypocrites. The Pharisees are thinking if Jesus says that it is lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, he alienates the people who hate the Roman occupation and Caesar. If he says it is unlawful to pay taxes, the people will be pleased, but Jesus will then be liable for arrest by the Romans. Jesus asks them whose inscription is on the coin. Caesar, they answer. Then render to the emperor what is due him, he says, and to God what belongs to God. But this is not just a game; Jesus' teaching reaches even to our time, and it is clear Jesus has greater concerns in mind. Governments and taxes are necessary, and every country has a Caesar of sorts to contend with. So, render unto that Caesar whatever is due. **But don't mess around with the things that belong to God. Whom do we belong to?** Sometimes it seems like we belong to a Caesar, our job, our families, or even by our material possessions. **But to whom do we really belong?** Look at any person. Whose inscription is on him or her? Each is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). There can be no doubt, then, what Jesus means here. Give yourselves to God because it is to him that you belong. Belonging to God, means that God will not forsake us. The Pharisees and the other religious leaders that Jesus denounces were notoriously bad at caring for the people. They forsook their responsibilities, and the people God gave into their care. They deserved condemnation. But God does not forsake his own. By Friday of Holy Week, Jesus made that clear in the boldest way possible. Second; because we belong to God, we belong to the people of God, the body of Christ. We are baptized into this fellowship and can only lose our membership by turning our backs on God. If there is any alienation, it is our own doing. And, if we return, God is there, as always. Third, it means that we give to God that which belongs to God's: that is, we give ourselves. We take the sacred trust and invest it in lives of worship. Sometimes, that worship occurs privately, in devotion. Sometimes, in church with our brothers and sisters in Christ. And the rest of the time, it occurs in the sphere of daily work and service. All of this is worship. Ultimately, giving ourselves to God means that we give ourselves to the world.

Extract from Clayton Schmit [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org)

## Readings from the Lectionary

Ex 33:12-23  
Ps 99  
1 Thes 1:1-10  
Mt 22:15-22

Dt 34:1-12  
Ps 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thes 2:1-8  
Mt 22:34-46



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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Website: <https://southmandurah.uwca.au>

For pastoral needs please contact Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677

E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: [yoyea1210@gmail.com](mailto:yoyea1210@gmail.com)

Leadership Team Chair: Raelyn Punch 0429 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

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

It is optional whether you include your name as a reference for the payment.

## Dates for Your Diary

Please make a note in your diaries for the following events:

### ◆ Our Annual Advent/Christmas Concert

Our very popular Advent Concert will be held on Saturday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> December at our church.

This will also be when we present all of our toys to Tony McAlinden donated for children whose parents are in prison for Christmas and unable to purchase gifts for their children themselves. The donation box can be found in the foyer.

Ken Lehmann will once again be organising this Event and acting as MC on the night. If you would like to join the singers or musicians, or to help in any other way please contact Ken M: 0417 955 149 or E:

[kenneth.lehmann@bigpond.com](mailto:kenneth.lehmann@bigpond.com)

### ◆ Compassionate Friends Service 10 December

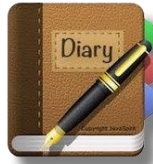
Compassionate Friends is a charity aimed at supporting bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who have suffered the death of a child. This year their annual service will be held at SMUC on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6-30pm for a 7pm start. Everyone is welcome.

More information will be provided as it becomes available

### ◆ A Special Christmas Eve Service

There will be a Christmas Eve service held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, led by our Pastor, Yoy Alberastine.

**More information will be published in the Messenger as it becomes available. In the meantime please make sure you have reserved these dates in your diary and ask your friends to reserve the dates too, as everyone is welcome at our (pre) Christmas concert and we are hoping for an even bigger crowd this year.**



## Share A Prayer With Yoy!

Yoy is at our church the first and second Saturday of every month from 9am to midday or by appointment in the afternoons. Please drop in to share a time of prayer with Yoy, or for a chat or a more in depth conversation over a cup of coffee. If you want to make an appointment for a confidential meeting with Yoy on Saturday afternoons between midday and 3pm, he can be contacted via email: [yoyea1210@gmail.com](mailto:yoyea1210@gmail.com) or M: 0421 793 562.



## Pink Ribbon Morning Tea

The Tuesday Craft Group invite you, your family and friends to our annual fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research.

**When:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30 am

**Where:** The Fellowship Room,  
South Mandurah Uniting Church  
2-4 REES PLACE

**Cost:** \$15 entry with raffle tickets and stalls on the day.

**Theme:** PINK ATTIRE [The more pink the better!!]

*Come and join us for a cuppa and a laugh.*

**Contact:** Sue Lawrence to book a table for you and friends. M: 043 029 530  
E: [jslaw1@bigpond.com](mailto:jslaw1@bigpond.com)

If anyone is interested in joining the Tuesday Craft Group, please speak to Sue.



## Coffee, Cake & Fellowship

You are invited to join the ladies or gentlemen respectively for coffee, delicious pastries and scintillating conversation:

**For Ladies: She Brews - 9-30am every Wednesday**

Seven Trees Café, 11 Galbraith Loop, Falcon

**For Gentlemen: Espresso - 9-30am Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

and every fortnight at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.

**For more information** please contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 or Raelyn Punch M: 0429 685 908, E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)



Coffee Fellowship

## The Messenger

Jenni Anderson has kindly agreed to be our guest editor of the Messenger until 29th October while Peter & Raelyn are holidaying. If you have any articles, notices or prayers please email them by **5pm Tuesday** to: [jenni.anderson@internode.on.net](mailto:jenni.anderson@internode.on.net)

## Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

**Rev. Mike Fawcett**

M: 0412 243 677

E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

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



**Peter Hyde** Sunday 22 October  
*God Bless and warm wishes  
To you upon your birthday*



*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.*



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