



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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



Lent 4

10 March 2024

Welcome: Lynsay & Jenny Dunning
Flowers: Debby Hardy
Coffee/Tea: Brian & Debby Hardy
Reader: John Lawrence
Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
Church Rep: Kerry Lawson
Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett
(Communion)



Lent 5

17 March 2024

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
Flowers: Sue Lawrence
Coffee/Tea: Keith & Jaren Picking
Reader: Sue Lawrence
Kids Church: Raelyn Punch
Church Rep: Andrew Telfer
Worship Leader: Andrew Telfer
Speaker: Piet Speyers



Readings from the Lectionary

Nm 21:4-9
Ps 107:1-3, 17-22
Eph 2:1-10
Jn 3:14-21

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16
Heb 5:5-10
Jn 12:20-33



South Mandurah Uniting Church

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E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: yoyea1210@gmail.com

Leadership Team Chair: TBA

Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au

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

Members of the Leadership Team: Yoy Alberastine, Rev. Mike Fawcett, Kerry Lawson,
Sherryl Smith, Andrew Telfer & Raelyn Punch

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.



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

We Become His Son

There is a story that comes out of the Bedouin culture. "Bedouin" is the Aramaic name for "desert dwellers." These people live much as the characters of the Old Testament did. During a heated argument, according to this story, a young Bedouin struck and killed a friend of his. Knowing the ancient, inflexible customs of his people, the young man fled, running across the desert under the cover of darkness, seeking safety.

He went to the black tent of the tribal chief in order to seek his protection. The old chief took the young Arab in. The chief assured him that he would be safe until the matter could be settled legally.

The next day, the young man's pursuers arrived, demanding the murderer be turned over to them. They would see that justice would prevail in their own way. "But I have given my word," protested the chief.

"But you don't know whom he killed!" they countered.

"I have given my word," the chief repeated.

"He killed your son!" one of them blurted out. The chief was deeply and visibly shaken with his news. He stood speechless with his head bowed for a long time. The accused and the accusers as well as curious onlookers waited breathlessly. What would happen to the young man? Finally the old man raised his head. "Then he shall become my son," he informed them, "and everything I have will one day be his."

The young man certainly didn't deserve such generosity. And that, of course, is the point. Love in its purest form is beyond comprehension. No one can merit it. It is freely given. It is agape, the love of God. Look to the cross. At the cross we encounter love in its purest form.

King Duncan, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com



Easter Services

Father Chris, Saint Damien's minister, has extended an invitation to the South Mandurah congregation to continue the tradition of joining them for the Stations of the Cross service and morning tea on Good Friday. Please note the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you at the services listed below:



Good Friday: March 29 Stations of the Cross
At St Damien's Catholic School Oval,
1 Nyabing Pass, Dawesville,
Commencing at 10-00am,
followed by morning tea

Easter Sunday: March 31 Sunday service
At SMUC Commencing at 9-30am,
followed by morning tea

Complain, Complain, Complain

The story is told of a young man who entered a very strict monastic order. It was so strict that members were permitted to speak only two words per year to the abbot. At the end of year one the young man appeared before the abbot and spoke his two words, "bad food." At the end of the second year the young man appeared before the abbot and spoke two more words, "hard bed". At the end of year three he came to the abbot and spoke his last two words, "I quit." The abbot responded, "Well it is about time. Complain, complain, complain - that's all you've done since you came here."



We humans are people of darkness. People who complain, rebel, work against the Kingdom of God. Death is all we know. Lives filled with the patterns of sin. However, God does an astonishing thing. He brings the light. He erects a cross of death that we might look up and live. He leads us out of the darkness. He loves the world and does not condemn it. He does not condemn you, if...if you will believe.

Brett Blair, www.Sermons.com

The Enablers List

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to join our church's Enablers' List. Without your help our church services would not be the joyous celebration of God's Love that we enjoy and share every Sunday.



It is now time to start compiling the Enablers' List for the **1st April to 30th June 2024 quarter.**

If you haven't been on the Enablers' List previously, or have taken a break from the List, please join in.

You can get more information from any member of the Leadership Team. Could all new and existing congregational members willing to serve on the Enablers' List please email Peter at prpunch@lasar.net.au ASAP and not later than **5pm Sunday 24th March** advising your availability and the Enablers' roles you are happy to accept (greeting, flowers, morning tea, reader and/or kids church).

Looking Up

Too often, too easily, our eyes are drawn down, God, to the suffering of victims and the pain of perpetrators, to the wounds we inflict on others and the wounds we inflict on ourselves. We need to see these things and pray.

But, we also need our eyes to be lifted, God, to the signs of your life among us, to the touch of your healing on our souls, to the cross that casts its liberating shadow across all human affairs.

We need our eyes to be lifted, God, so our hearts may be filled with faith and hope and love
Amen.



John van de Laar <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-looking-up.html>

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)



Sunday Prayer Group



Members and are reminded visitors are invited to an informal prayer group meeting which is held at the church on Sunday mornings from 9-00am to 9-15am. All are 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.



Happy birthday

Ashleigh Punch Thursday 14 March
*God Bless and warm wishes
To you upon your birthday*