

# Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

A progressive faith community of justice-seeking friends in the heart of Sydney

Thursday 6 April 2017



Dear Pitt Street Community,

On Monday night, after the amazing launch of Equal Voices by the Hon Michael Kirby, I read a text on my phone asking if I was willing to go to northern NSW as a Disaster Response Chaplain to support people affected by the storm and flooding. I said, "yes" and so I am writing this message from Ballina. I flew up here today to join a team of people who have trained as Disaster Response Chaplains. The programme is administered by the Uniting Church (led by the Rev Stephen Robinson in the Assembly Office) but it is very ecumenical. Only two of the twelve chaplains are UCA. Tomorrow some of us will go to Lismore and others to Murwillumbah. We will work out the Disaster Response Centres or community hubs where people come for assistance, advice and emotional support.

I did DR chaplaincy training last year, motivated by the helplessness I felt at the time of the Martin Place siege. I wanted to support people in the CBD that day, but only accredited DR chaplains could help. This is a good thing as it ensures that the response is coordinated and professional. At the time, I did not expect to be putting my training into practice in regional NSW but I am grateful for the opportunity to be here and to help. Though our lives in the metropolis of Sydney are rather different than the lives of people in regional and remote areas, we are all connected, and I feel sure that Pitt Street people would support me being here. I will return on Monday evening in plenty of time to finish the Easter preparations. And everything for this Sunday is under control!

I will write more about the Equal Voices launch another time, but I do want to say thank you to everyone who helped make it a huge success!

Peace, Margaret

## Sunday 9 April

10am Palm Sunday Gathering  
Morning Tea/Coffee  
Community Time

2 pm Palm Sunday Rally for  
Refugees

## Tues 11 April

5.30 pm, With One Voice  
Sydney Choir

## Wed 12 April

7 pm, Church Council

## Friday 14 April

10 am Good Friday

## Sunday 16 April

10 am Easter Sunday  
(with Holy Communion)

Margaret will be on leave  
17-25 April.



**Pitt Street Uniting** is a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia. The gathering at 10 am on Sunday is the heart of our community life but we are also a place of welcome and hospitality for the wider community of Sydney for spirituality, justice, ecology, arts, music, meetings and events.

## Notices and Coming Events



### PITT STREET VOICES FOR JUSTICE - PALM SUNDAY RALLY FOR REFUGEES

At the Archibald Fountain, Hyde Park North, Sydney on the **9 April 2017** 14.00-16.00. Optional march to First Fleet Park, Circular Quay. If you would like to join with Pitt Street people, please email [meredithknight255@gmail.com](mailto:meredithknight255@gmail.com) who will organise a meeting place and time.



### HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT PITT STREET

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – 9 April 10am  
GOOD FRIDAY – 14 April 10am (please note time)  
EASTER SUNDAY – 16 April 10am



### 2017 EASTER VOUCHER APPEAL – UNITING SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

As a community, we know that #WeCanDoBetter for refugees and people seeking asylum and making a difference in the life of someone this Easter through the Give Hope Voucher Appeal is a good place to start.

1. Purchase a gift card or voucher to the amount of your choice. This could be a supermarket or department store voucher or even a gift card for a pharmacy, cinema or sports store
2. Send the voucher to: Give Hope Team, PO Box 7137, Silverwater NSW 2128
3. Spread the word about the appeal, connect with us on social media and visit our webpage to learn more.
4. We provide the donated vouchers to Settlement Services International (SSI) who will distribute them to those in need in the community.



### LENT EVENT 2017

UnitingWorld is partnering with the Church of North India to give people the tools to challenge the systems of inequality in their culture. Community workers are being trained to educate families about their rights, in relation to accessing education, health services, even business opportunities. Please hold the people of India in your prayers this week. To learn more visit [www.lentevent.com](http://www.lentevent.com) where you can also make a gift to support the work of the Church of North India.



**EREMOS QUIET MORNING**, Saturday **8 April 2017**, 10-1pm, Reflections on Stations of the Cross with diverse Artworks, Northmead Creative & Performing Arts High School. Led by curator Doug Parnell & Bethany South.

**More details:** [http://www.eremos.org.au/events/16\\_Feb/stations-of-the-cross-exhibiting-4-17-april-2017](http://www.eremos.org.au/events/16_Feb/stations-of-the-cross-exhibiting-4-17-april-2017). Booking essential, by emailing [council@eremos.org.au](mailto:council@eremos.org.au)



### CIVIL RESISTANCE WORKSHOP

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), of which Pitt Street is a member, is sponsoring a workshop on nonviolent direct action, to work for environmental and social justice. Co-facilitators: Justin Whelan and Gill Burrows (Pace e Bene). **Sat 8 April 2017**, 10am-4pm. \$50 or \$15 concession. Level 2, Pilgrim House Community Room, 262 Pitt St, Sydney. [www.arrcc.org.au](http://www.arrcc.org.au)



### UNITING CHURCH AT THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Uniting Church leaders recently appeared before the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. President Stuart Macmillan has issued a Pastoral Statement on behalf of the UCA. You can read it here:

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/2577-uniting-church-in-australia-at-the-royal-commission>

## Notices and Coming Events



### SIGN UP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Micah Australia is leading a countrywide campaign to deliver petitions to every single Federal MP. The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is driving this message through all its faith-group members, but this is a community-wide initiative. You can: Sign the Pitt St Petition to our local MP, if you are a local voter; Sign up as an organiser for your own

electorate; Collect signatures from family, friends and community.

More Information: <http://www.micahaustralia.org/climate-petition>

Also, join the Pitt St Uniting Earthweb group to help with this and other strategies to help the planet – contact Pitt St office



### RACHEL COLLIS & HER FOUR PIECE BAND

Rachel Collis and her 4-piece band will be performing at Burwood Uniting Church, at 7:30pm on Friday **28 April 2017**. The evening will be opened by singer/songwriter James Donnelly. Tickets are available at the door.



### WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD – A DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

The next edition covering 6 February – 7 May 2017 is now available from Patricia Curthoys or the church office for \$5.00.

### UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD WEEKLY NEWS

Subscribe online to keep up with news from the Synod.

<http://www.vision6.com.au/em/forms/subscribe.php?db=408936&s=144683&a=47004&k=83d7ec0>



### EQUAL VOICES LAUNCH AT PITT STREET – now on You Tube

You can view the recent launch of Equal Voices (an ecumenical organisation of LGBTIQ Christians and allies to recognise, celebrate and support LGBTIQ people in the church) on You Tube. To link to the playlist of 4 videos, including Michael Kirby, go to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLe510OcGuk9Y-Z5BBBYWJblMaamSjyg5u>

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### PITT STREET ONLINE


#### Sunday Reflections

Read the Reflection: [www.pittstreetuniting.org.au](http://www.pittstreetuniting.org.au)

 Watch the Reflection: [bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube](http://bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube)

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# Notices and Coming Events

## 'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>This week – 9 April Palm/Passion Sunday</b>	<b>Next week – 16 April Easter 1</b>
1st Reading	Dramatised Passion	Jeremiah 31: 1-6
2nd Reading	Reading – based on	Contemporary reading
Gospel	Gospel of Matthew	John 20: 1-18
Liturgist	Margie Willis	Clare Brockett
Reflection	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Reader 1	Geoff Maddox	Keith Walkerden
Reader 2	Selina Williamson	Narelle Scotford
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Children's story	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Welcomers	Liz Groves Sandra Hoffman	Margaret Whelan Steve Walkerden
Sound Operator	Rodney Monk (L)	Geoff Maddox
Camera Operator	Warwick Tate	Warwick Tate
Organist	Peter Bennett	John Aitchison
Flowers	--	Dawn Robson
Recycler	Geoff Maddox	Warren Talbot
Morning Tea	Lorrie Evans	Lyn Corby
Set up/put away	Hazel Hogarth Peter Hogarth Meredith Knight Jenny Reath David Robinson Tim Usherwood Cathy Williamson	Larry Keenan Chris Longfoot Katherine Lynch Jeanette Matthews Dawn Robson Lionel Robson
Worship Coordinators	Trina Hodgson Dawn Robson	Jolyon Bromley Helen Sanderson
Communion Team		Cathy Ashcroft John Floyd

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