

Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

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

Thursday 30 November 2017



Dear Pitt Street People,

I'm back after a lovely two week holiday with Clare in Far North Queensland. The weather was perfect and the pace of life beautifully laid back. However, FNQ has some weird and terrifying creatures. It's stinger season so you can only swim in netted areas and you don't walk on the beach at night for fear of becoming crocodile supper. On an island off the coast (where we could swim), we saw huge skins (30 cm long!). And one night a rhinoceros beetle landed on our balcony! (Google it). We survived the wild things, and it's so good to be rested and ready for Advent and Christmas.

Advent is a season of waiting and wondering. I deeply appreciate its simplicity in contrast to commercialised Christmas, which seems to start earlier each year. The Church is so far out of the mainstream that Advent is like a secret, counter-cultural celebration.

This year our Advent gatherings will be shaped by the question, "where is the sacred revealed to us? Themes for the four Sundays are Darkness, Preparing a Space, Desire, and Hope. We have some lovely new colouring pictures for children for each Sunday and a resource booklet for families. Members of the Worship Team are creating something visual to delight young and old. And there will be beautiful music!

I hope you can join us as we seek the sacred and the birthing of the sacred in us.

Peace, Margaret

COMING UP AT PITT STREET...

Sunday 3 December
10 am Sunday Gathering
morning tea/coffee

Tuesday 5 December
5pm Sydney Sings Choir

Wednesday 6 December
7pm Worship Team

Sunday 10 December
10 am Sunday Gathering and
Advent Play
morning tea/coffee

Wednesday 13 December
7pm Community Group



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



Members & Friends Update

We like to be up to date. Have your details changed throughout 2017? If so, email Cynthia before 8 December so she can update the Members & Friends List.



A Christmas Carol

On Sunday 10 December at 12.30pm, Rev Geoff Usher will perform his reading of "A Christmas Carol" at Pitt Street. Suitable for children aged 12 and over. Free admission. Donations to the Christmas Bowl Appeal are welcome.



Marriage Equality Passes Senate

Brilliant news! Senator Dean Smith's bill passed 43-12 without any of the offensive and discriminatory "religious" amendments. People from Australian Christians for Marriage Equality were lobbying in Canberra yesterday and were present for the vote. Next week Margaret will join a group lobbying the House. Please let your MP know it's time to get this done.



Manus Island

Christians from Love Makes a Way have been working to keep attention focused on the human rights abuses of the asylum seekers on Manus Island. The Saturday Paper is urging people to phone the offices of Malcom Turnbull to demand that refugees are brought to Australia or settled in safe countries.



Movember

Message from John Floyd: "Thank you to those generous folk who have donated to the Movember Foundation. The amount this year is hovering around \$1000.00. If you would like to donate, I have provided the required information below." Member ID: 57755 Fundraising link: <http://mobro.co/JTFloyd>



Pitt Street Singers 2018 Planning

A short planning meeting this Sunday after church in the Peace Chapel for people interested in taking part in leading the choir in 2018. Please contact Elizabeth Maddox at lizzyhorst@gmail.com If you are interested but unable to attend, Elizabeth will be in touch so that dates can be allocated.



Honey Bees Summer Concert

Saturday 9 December at 6.45pm at Sydney Boys High School. More info and ticket booking link here: <http://bit.ly/2zwhZYc>. Join Honeybees member Allison Forrest and enjoy traditional gospel and modern gospel-inspired songs in a cabaret setting. Proceeds to Twenty10.



Royal Secret Christmas Opera

On Saturday 10 December the Viktoria Show will present their Royal Secret Christmas Opera. Introduce your children to opera classics and magnificent sounds of a pipe organ with a modern touch. Free for children aged 12 and under. www.viktoria.show



Advent and Christmas at Pitt Street

9 Lessons & Carols Sun 17 December 7 pm

Advent 4 Sun 24 December 10 am

Christmas Eve Sun 24 December 7:30 pm

Christmas Day Mon 25 December 9 am

PITT STREET ONLINE

Sunday Reflections



Read the Reflection: www.pittstreetuniting.org.au

Watch the Reflection: <http://bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube>

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Notices and Coming Events

'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

Ministry	This Week – 3 December Advent 1	Next Week – 10 December Advent 2
1 st Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11
2 nd Reading	Contemporary Reading	Contemporary Reading
Gospel	Matthew 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8
Liturgist	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Reflection	Margaret Mayman	Advent Play
Reader 1	Keith Walkerden	Cynthia Coghill
Reader 2	Patricia Curthoys	Barbara Dutton
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Children's story	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Welcomers	Gerard McEvilly Sue McEvilly	Liz Groves Sandra Hoffman
Sound Operator	Sharon Wellfare	Margaret Whelan
Organist	John Aitchison	John Aitchison
Flowers	Lesley Knight	John Thorpe
Recycler	Gerard McEvilly	Vivien Langford
Morning Tea, Set up, put away	Syd Cole Barbara Dutton Robyn Floyd Sue Gehrig Katy Gerner Susan Nicholson Gordon Nurse Margie Whelan	Fiona Bennett Piyush Joseph Vinita Joseph Will Ray Jingwen Sun Catherine Thompson Lucas Thompson Selina Williamson
Worship Coordinators	Cathy Ashcroft Lesley Knight	Mae Cotterell Paul Cotterell
Communion Team	Ron Brown Allison Forrest	

Office: 264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000. **Church open:** Tues – Thurs 10 am-4 pm, Fri 10 am-2pm

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