



High Street Uniting Church

# NEWS: 1st October 2023

We acknowledge the traditional custodianship  
of the Bunurong people in this region

16-18 High Street, Frankston VIC 3199

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## Words, Deeds and New Being

We were enjoying a dinner with old friends, when suddenly the atmosphere changed and people began not just expressing strong opinions, but attacking those who held a different opinion. (You'll have to guess what the subject was!) I wondered what lay behind such strength of emotions – we had disagreed often in the past but always in a friendly manner.

The chief priests and elders were pretty angry at Jesus, but they didn't address what was really bothering them – instead they challenged him about what authority he had for his teachings and healings. So Jesus, as he often did, told them a story - a parable. At first glance, this parable of the Two Sons seems very comforting to us. Most of us don't put a lot of time into talking about our faith; we prefer to try and live it out. So we think we must be like the second son who didn't say that we would go to work in the vineyard, but he actually did. The only trouble is that the chief priests and elders thought that they were doing what God had prescribed in the Law, so they were doing the will of the father. Jesus points back to John the Baptist and his message about a new way of being right in God's eyes; a way that turned all the old ways upside down. This was tricky for the leaders – they knew how popular John was, so they paid lip service to his message. Jesus said that wasn't enough.

He goes further. He tells them that the ones they looked down on – the tax collectors and prostitutes – were going into the kingdom of God ahead of them. So what is this new way that Jesus is talking about? And why are known sinners going into the Kingdom ahead of the religious people?

The new message is that nothing we can do or say is enough to earn God's love – whether you are a prostitute, a tax cheat or a religious leader. It is a free gift of God which we can only accept and rejoice in. What it does need is what John called repenting – turning around from our self-satisfied way of being sure we are right and that God would be very pleased with us, to realising that we need to put our trust in God's mercy and grace. Then we need to start living out of that grace and love. So we are finished with the idea of looking down on others who we think don't live in God's ways, or deserve God's love (or those with whom we disagree). For Jesus, the new way of living out of grace and not law is that we need to match not only our deeds with our words, but also with what Lesslie Newbigin summarised as "new being". The way we relate to others, the sort of community we become is vital if we want people to see some trace of the love and grace of God in us. Jesus calls us to respond with gracious love to those who don't deserve it, the ones who are outcast or struggling, to those with whom we most disagree. It is a tough ask – but this is the Jesus Way – the way he calls us to follow.

**Robert Johnson, 1 October 2023 – Pentecost 18**

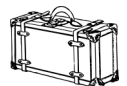
## We Need You!

As you will be aware, the imminent 14 October referendum for the Voice has been actively promoted through the unmissable banner outside our Church, as organised by the HSUC Social Justice Group. This is a relatively new group, which is very active and continually exploring ways in which to foster a greater awareness of social justice matters and to actively promote these as widely as possible. We are a relatively small group, which meets on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. We would be delighted if you would prayerfully consider joining our friendly and active group to extend our outreach. Please let Esther know your name and phone number, and we will contact you!

Carmen and Ross should be arriving back in Melbourne this weekend.

We're expecting Ross back in the office on Tuesday, 3rd October.

We hope they had a wonderful trip!



## ZOOM/PHONE DETAILS

For all services:

On a tablet or laptop computer: Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.

(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

On a phone without video: call (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID: #

Password: 3199 #

## More Information

### **Important contact details:**

Ross Pearce: 0437 561 833

[rgpearce.au@gmail.com](mailto:rgpearce.au@gmail.com)

Mandy Lake: 0438 715 029

[mandy.lake@monash.edu](mailto:mandy.lake@monash.edu)

**Website:** [www.frankstonuniting.org.au](http://www.frankstonuniting.org.au)

**Prayer team:** Phone 5971 2840 (Marlene)

or email [hsuca-](mailto:hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com)

[prayer@googlegroups.com](mailto:prayer@googlegroups.com)

**Office hours:** 9:00 am to 1:00pm, M - F.

[frankstonuc@gmail.com](mailto:frankstonuc@gmail.com) or 9783 3400

### **Offerings:**

Account name: Frankston Uniting Church

BSB: 063 133 Account #: 00800128

Please use **OFFERING** as the description

OR Mail Cheque to:

31 Lucerne Cres

Frankston VIC 3199

**Notices:** Please send any items to

[frankstonuc@gmail.com](mailto:frankstonuc@gmail.com) by midday on

Thursday.

**HST:** Please send material to

[johnannable@bigpond.com](mailto:johnannable@bigpond.com)

### **Coming up in October**

**Sun 1st:** Daylight savings commences

Distribution of HST

**Mon 2nd:** LEGs meeting at 6:00pm

**Tues 3rd:** Church Council at 7:30pm

**Tues 17th:** Elders at 1:30pm

**Thurs 19th:** Baxter Communion

**Fri 20th:** Material for HST due

## Street Requiem on the Ridge

*Presented by Flinders Fringe and Uncommon Folk*

With selected movements from "STREET REQUIEM - For Those Who Died On The Street", which was co-created by Kathleen McGuire, Andy Payne and Jonathon Welch in 2014.

Raising funds for housing and homelessness programs on the Mornington Peninsula, delivered by Western Port Community Support Centre, Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre, and Mornington Community Support Centre.



All ticket sales and donations managed by Mornington Peninsula Foundation go directly to the Community Support Centres. All funds from music sales go directly to Upbeat Arts Ltd.

**When: 5:00pm—7:00pm on Saturday, 31st October**

**Where: Uncommon Folk Farm,  
328 Main Creek Road, Main Ridge Victoria 3928**

**Tickets: \$15.00—\$75.00**

Please book through the TryBooking website:

[www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1099513](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1099513)

*This event is made possible with generous support from Mornington Peninsula Shire.*

## Bible Study Group

The fortnightly group will be continuing this coming Tuesday 3rd October at 10.30 am at the Church in the Green Room. We are using the study booklet "Women of the New Testament". New members are very welcome at any time. Please contact Keith Holmes (9789 2575) for further details and for a booklet.

## Presbytery Prayers

This week we ask you to join us in prayer for the Pakenham Congregation, including Rev. Robert Elkhuizen, Jo Crisp and Riak Kiir.

## HSUC Christmas Fete!

It's almost time for the annual Christmas Fete! This year the Fete will be held on Saturday, 9th December from 9:00am until 1:00pm. If you would like to book a stall, you can find application forms on the table in the foyer, or by emailing Marg at [pcs.cogroup.com.au](mailto:pcs.cogroup.com.au)

**Items for the Fete can be dropped off on Friday, 8th December. Unfortunately we can't accept furniture or electrical items.**

## Traditional Rosters

### Sunday, 1st October

**Bible Reader:** Elaine Kenyon

**Prayers of the People:** Rona Russell

**Stewards:** Daryl Groves, Heather Rawson

**Morning Tea:** Graeme & Jenny H, Bev Fowler

### Sunday, 8th October

**Bible Reader:** Alan Mathews

**Prayers of the People:** Keith Holmes

**Stewards:** Mick Johnson, Neville Parker

**Morning Tea:** Karin J, Harriet H, John U.

The Contemporary Roster and further details for the Traditional Roster can be found on our website, [frankstonuniting.org.au](http://frankstonuniting.org.au), or on the noticeboard.