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ISSUE NO. 108 MAY 2025

FOOT WASHING? HAND WASHING? BOTH? NEITHER?

A Maundy Thursday reading from John's gospel: John 13:2-5, 12-17:



² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (NIV)

This is one of my favourite readings. It's at the heart of my call to ministry as a deacon - that of servanthood, of serving each other. Unsurprisingly it's also one of my favourite activities of Holy Week, but one we so rarely perform. Did Jesus really mean we should literally wash each other's feet? Or as so often happens is there a deeper meaning?

Why is it, I find myself wondering, that we don't like to wash each other's feet in re-enactment of this part of the "Last Supper"? We enjoy breaking bread together and sharing the cup. We do it often. Why not washing feet? Why is it that we opt for the more 'sanitised' activity of washing hands?

Let's compare feet:

- * the disciples' feet were probably more dirty than ours but ours are probably more smelly! So often we close them up in shoes!
- * the disciples' feet were undoubtedly tougher than ours wearing only sandals in the rocky, stoney desert byways and cobblestone streets of the cities. Ours, by comparison are tender, mostly protected by our shoes and sandals.

* I don't know about the disciples' feet but ours seem to be very sensitive (cont. on page 3)



Easter Day at Kyneton

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

What a joyful celebration was created on Easter Day at Kyneton, as I guess might have been the case in all Christian Churches. I suspect that what happened at Kyneton UC might have been just a little different to the norm. The joyous, celebratory singing, dancing, even streamer tossing might have been the same as what happened in other places. And the Lectionary Readings told the same wonderful and mysterious Easter story. (continued over)

Easter

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
27 Apr	Easter 2	W	Acts 5:27-32	118:14-29 or 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
4 May	Easter 3	W	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
11 May	Easter 4	W	Acts 9:36-43	23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
18 May	Easter 5	W	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
25 May	Easter 6	W	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10, 22 to 22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
29 May	Ascension Day	W	Acts 1:1-11	47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
1 Jun	Easter 7	W	Acts 16:16-34	97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26

The Revised Common Lectionary is available from the UC Assembly Resourcing Unit. A link to the publication is available below (or you can search for it online using "calendar and lectionary 2025") <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Lectionary-YrC-2025-1.pdf>

[illegible]

The concert is free of charge but we would welcome a plate for afternoon tea following the performance.

Malcolm Cole

(from page 1) to the touch of human hands; we pull them away, they feel tickled, sensitive to the touch of another person's hands.

A look at the way we use our hands and feet shows us many similarities. They're most useful in such a variety of ways, in fact they're essential for our daily living. When they aren't in perfect 'working order' we search out a variety of ways to assist us in achieving maximum functionality. Both hands and feet are essential to living wholesome, helping, community minded lives. Both are used to lash out in hurtful, anti-social and destructive ways. Put bluntly, both are instruments of good and evil. It depends on how we use them.

What's your preference? Washing feet? Or washing hands?

Does washing hands change the power or the meaning of Jesus' action and message?

Is the symbolism weakened by washing hands?

How, do you think, servant ministry is understood in our world today? By Christians?

And by those with no connection to the Christian Church?

My liturgical stoles are not worn 'crookedly' (as one young boy asked) but symbolic of the towel used to wash feet, hung over the shoulder, tied at the waist or hip to free the hands for service.



So many questions. I'd be interested to hear your reflections.

For me foot washing is a powerful image of Jesus' call on our lives as Christians.

It seems to me it's an essential part of our role in the world in which we find ourselves today.

My choice? Foot washing every time.

Meg.

Faith

To make bread or love,
to dig the earth,
to feed an animal or cook for a stranger -
these activities require no extensive commentary,
no lucid theology.
All they require is someone willing to bend,
reach, chop, stir.
Most of these tasks are so full of pleasure that there is no need
to complicate things by calling them holy.
And yet these are the same activities that change lives,
sometimes all at once
and sometimes more slowly
the way dripping water changes stone.
In a world where faith is sometimes construed as a way of thinking,
physical practices remind the willing
that faith is a way of life.

Barbara Brown Taylor
'An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith'

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2025				1	2	3
				2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter 3 9.30am service streamed from Gisborne – Holy Communion 2.30pm Proteus Ensemble Tylden	2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton 7pm Simba Sessions	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Easter 4 9.30am streamed from Tylden	2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne	*PiP articles due tomorrow
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Easter 5 9.30am streamed from Kyneton	1.30pm Kay's Fashions Gisborne 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton (HC)	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Easter 6 local services, no streaming (more detail on page 8) 1.30pm Iolanthe Romsey	2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne	

GISBORNE UNITING CHURCH
(23 Brantome Street, Gisborne)

PRESENTS

KAY'S CLASSIC FASHIONS
"WINTER PARADE"

ON MONDAY, 19TH MAY, 2025
AT 1.30 P.M. at the Church

ALL WELCOME



ENTRY: \$10
AFTERNOON TEA

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SALES ON THE DAY

Enquiries to Maree on 5428 3852 or 0423 051 318

WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY
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2025
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stories of the edge

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The Simba
Sessions

An evening of music,
poetry and story:
nurturing the arts,
celebrating diversity
and building
compassionate
community.

Join us at Kyneton
Uniting Church every
2nd Friday, as we reflect
on our stories through
the stories of another.



The
SIMBA
SESSIONS

March 21st

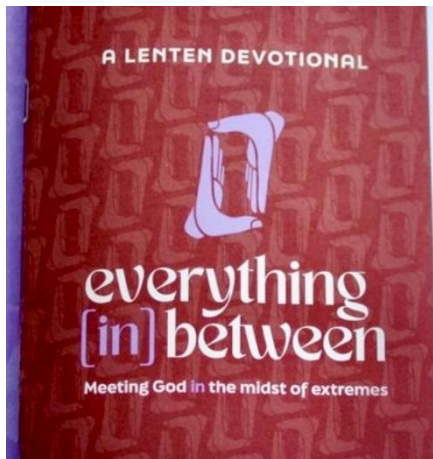
April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

Psalms 150

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty
firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his
surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and
dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing
cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise
the Lord!
Praise the Lord!



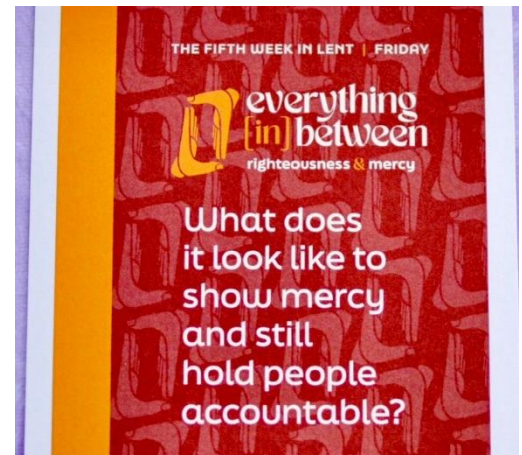
“Everything (in) between” - A Sanctified Art Resource

During Lent the Woodend Faith Community hosted a weekly devotional focusing on readings from the Gospel of Luke. This included art, songs, poetry and written reflections that invited those attending to explore some of the supposed binaries that we live with and how God might be meeting us beyond the categories we can create. Considering dichotomies, like intention and action, mercy and righteousness or acceptance and resistance, provoked fresh and challenging conversations that helped us question and/or integrate faith, politics, daily practices and hopes, as

well as a time to share together in prayer.

While the Lenten study might be finished, it is likely that another study will be decided upon and will continue in May. All are welcome at 2.30pm on Mondays in the Woodend UC.

Submitted by Louise Johnson



What does it look like to show mercy and still hold people accountable?

A BLESSING for Birdwatchers and Others.

May God bless you with clear eyesight
and sharp ears,

with calm sunny days and a good bird
book for stormy nights.

May owls call and plovers rouse,
and little birds make soft sounds about
you.

May stars shine in your sky and rain pelt
on your roof.

God bless you with friends to bird-watch
with and remember their joy together.

Bless you with solitude and silence.

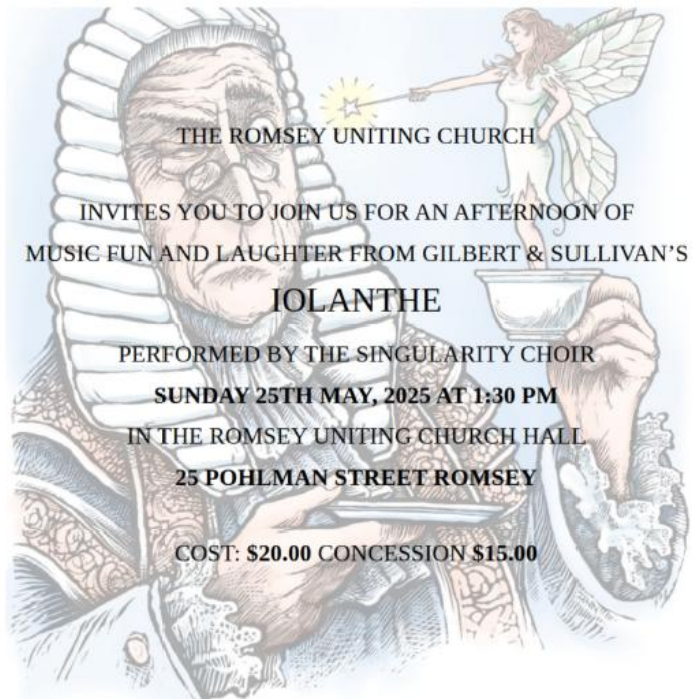
Bless you with laughter with a Creator
who made downright funny things.

Bless you with a love of all the
delicate and beautiful things in life.

Thanks be to the Creator

(Heather Cummins 2015)

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S IOLANTHE OR THE PEER AND THE PERI



THE ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF
MUSIC FUN AND LAUGHTER FROM GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

IOLANTHE

PERFORMED BY THE SINGULARITY CHOIR

SUNDAY 25TH MAY, 2025 AT 1:30 PM

IN THE ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH HALL

25 POHLMAN STREET ROMSEY

COST: \$20.00 CONCESSION \$15.00

RSVP By 4th May 2025

Carol Toy – 0419350139 | cajotoy@hotmail.com

Name and Phone Number to be supplied.

Payment to be made on the day.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Popes I have known - or almost

Pope John XXIII is famous for calling the Second Vatican Council (1961-65) which has had a lasting impact on the Roman Catholic Church. He said he wanted to “throw open the windows” to allow fresh breezes to blow into the Catholic Church. The faithful now hear Mass said in their local language, instead of Latin. The Council also encouraged ecumenism, another big change.

The next pope, Paul VI, was elected before Vatican II ended. He was another reformer but less charismatic than John XXIII. Paul VI visited Australia in 1970 and I was responsible, with Catholic colleagues, for preparing an ecumenical service in Sydney Town Hall, at which the Pope spoke, again encouraging ecumenism. I didn't meet Paul VI but felt I almost knew him!

The next pope, John Paul I, died after being in the job only a few weeks.

His successor, John Paul II, the “Polish Pope”, was rather conservative, but he raised the international profile of the Church by visiting 129 countries – an extraordinary effort. He came to Australia in 1986, at which time I was president of the Australian Council of Churches, so I had the task of welcoming him to Australia on behalf of the non-Catholic churches of this country. This was at a massive gathering in the MCG. He greeted me warmly after the speech. A few days later I attended a large outdoor Papal Mass in Adelaide. Having worked on a committee which prepared the whole Australian visit, I was given a medal – a nice surprise.

Pope Francis, of course, never visited Australia but his influence was certainly felt here. He changed the emphases of the Church in many ways, not least in his concern for the poor and marginalized and for peace. As widely reported, he appointed the Bishop of Tonga as a cardinal. Having met the cardinal, I would say he is a pastoral leader rather than a monarchical figure, rather like Francis himself.

D'Arcy Wood

RIDDELLS CREEK LANDSCAPE PROJECT & THE WHITE GOOSE

RMIT Students Partner with Local Groups for Riddells Creek Landscape Project.

Riddells Creek is hosting a collaborative project that explores sustainable design and environmental connectivity. This project undertaken by RMIT Landscape Architecture students. Riddells Creek is as a case study for students to imagine ways to improve connectivity within a small township which considers the relationship between green space and urban areas, public and private space, and how this works in relation to the local waterways. As part of the project a number of visits to the town have occurred.

In partnership with the Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association (MRWA), the project focuses on where land meets waterways—and how these areas can be integrated into landscape design to improve both social and environmental outcomes.

Locals are helping orient the students by offering walking tours and reviewing maps, providing valuable insights into the area's landscape and community needs.

Their support ensures the students have a strong understanding of the local context.

The students thank the local Uniting Church for hosting their class discussions and debrief sessions, offering a welcoming space for reflection and collaboration throughout the project.

This is an edited extract from a longer article in the April Edition of the Riddell Roundup. Used with permission.

Sunday services in the Partnership are held at 9.30am weekly at Gisborne, Tylden and Romsey. Kyneton meets for Sunday worship fortnightly, alternating with Friday evening worship. The Northern Churches meet on Sundays at Sutton Grange on the 2nd Sunday of the month and at Metcalf on the 4th Sunday.

Alternative service times – Fish'n'Chips service at **Kyneton** at 6.30pm this month on 9th and 23rd May – BYO tea as we eat together before we worship together (and no, it doesn't have to be fish and chips!)

Ministers Munchies (informal worship in the Northern congregation) is to be confirmed, usually at 10am on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday at Bec's café **Redesdale**

Gisborne Midweek worship – keep an eye out for Annette's emails for more details.

If you would like to be on the email list, please contact Annette at her email on the back page of PiP

Annette Buckley is on leave at present and we wish her a well-earned rest!

Other weekly events:

Monday Meditation group 4pm at Romsey UC (speak with Jenny Elliot for details)

Wednesday: White Goose 9.30am to 1pm at Riddells Creek UC

Thursday: Coffee Catchup 2.00 pm at Romsey Community Co-op, 126 Main St Romsey

Friday: Prayer Group 10.00 am at Gisborne UC

Souper lunches in Woodend on Mondays are taking a break from providing soup. You are still invited to join and share lunch – byo lunch at 1pm, stay for Faith Community – discussion, sharing, prayer at 2.30pm at the Woodend Church next to the Op Shop at 37 Forest St Woodend.

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Helen Carey Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Helen Aldridge <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit Jenny Elliott Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole, Shirley Bowen <u>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>	<u>White Goose</u> Meg Evans	
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D'Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Fellowship & Community</u> – Kerrie Birch - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo -</u> (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Deputy Chair</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> – Lyn Ward	<u>Tylden Woodend Op Shop CoCo members</u> Paul Gilbertson, Nola Anderson, Colin Chapman

Address label

Partnership in Print is a monthly newsletter produced by the Uniting Church in Australia – Macedon Ranges Partnership and is available every month via email, on-line or in print, except January.

Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Jenny Elston	Church Council Executive	Marge Townrow Dot Smith
<u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)					Pip Elston, Lyn Ward, Helen Aldridge(alt)
<u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Dawn Hinneberg
<u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St					
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

A Request to all Church Councils

Please send me an update if required of contacts for your churches for the above 2 pages. AGM's have occurred recently and I am expecting changes but still haven't received any. Perhaps confirmation from each congregation that there are no changes would be good!

Next (June) edition of PiP will be out at the end of May, I will require any input for the next edition to me by Sunday 18th May.

Robyn zumstein@mmnet.com.au

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