



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**Synod of Victoria and Tasmania**  
**Presbytery of Yarra Yarra**

PO Box 4308  
Balwyn East VIC 3103

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions**

*As usual, the newsletter contains a number of items which may be of interest to your congregations. Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.*

*Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.*

### **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

Warm greetings from the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra and its leadership team. While the Christmas season is a busy one for congregations, we hope that the past few weeks have also provided an opportunity for some peaceful and happy time with families and others you love. The Presbytery office has now resumed for the new year, and we look forward to working closely with you through what still seems to be a challenging time.

#### **Updated advice on COVID restrictions**

The Synod has advised us of an update to the Synod Frequently Asked Questions [document](#). This now reflects the advice received from the Government on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, and is essential reading for Church Councils and Ministers. Please pay particular attention to the information on pages 4 and 5 about electronic record-keeping.

In order to apply a rule of 2 square metres per person your congregation must have registered for and displayed a QR code, and then ensure that electronic registration is used for every person attending. A greeter will be required on every door by which the public can enter. Their role is to ensure that everyone entering the building registers via the QR code. For attendees who do not have a smart phone or tablet device, the greeter will need to register them on the greeter's smartphone or tablet.

#### **Presbytery Inductions**

We share in the joy of congregations who will be welcoming new Ministers over the next couple of months, and look forward to celebrating

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with them at the various induction services. We are still anticipating that these services will be held “in person”, but of course it will always be necessary to be aware of any changed conditions that may need to be imposed.

At **Carlton Church of All Nations**, Rev Ray Gormann will be inducted on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2:30pm. Members of Presbytery planning to attend are asked to advise the Congregation Secretary, Dr Jill Tabart, at [tabart.ken.jill@inet.net.au](mailto:tabart.ken.jill@inet.net.au) so that numbers will be known. Please respond before 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Rev Swee Ann Koh will take up a placement at **Manningham** on 1<sup>st</sup> February, joining Rev Claire Dawe in a team ministry. Details of the induction service to be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2 pm. Further details will be available shortly.

An induction service is also being planned for Rev Carlynn Nunn, who has commenced her placement as Chaplain to the **University of Melbourne**. The placement is also associated with the congregation at Wesley in Lonsdale Street. The induction will take place at the University on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at noon, to fit in with the academic year. Further details will be known closer to the date.

### **Congregation Details Update**

This is the time of year when we try to ensure that all congregational details are up-to-date. With this newsletter there is a blank spreadsheet requesting details of your congregation, your congregational Minister(s) and office bearers, and details of all paid workers. If you are a Church Council Secretary please make sure this is completed and returned by the end of January.

### **Congregation Annual Reports**

Each Church Council is required to prepare and present to the congregation each year an annual report concerning the life and work of the congregation (Regulation 3.1.2(x)). It is very helpful to the Presbytery if a copy of each report can be forwarded to the Presbytery. If your Church Council has not done so recently, please send a copy of your latest report to the Secretary.

### **New Illuminating Faith resources**

New [Illuminating Faith](#) resources for Lent 2021 are now available. These include [a service order for Passion Sunday or Good Friday](#), based on the St

Mark's passion narrative, and a series of Lenten Studies on Isaiah's Servant Songs – '[God's Servant, Served](#)'. A complete list of Lenten studies available through *IF* is available from the 'God's Servant, Serve' web page. For more information contact Craig Thompson at [craig@christologia.net](mailto:craig@christologia.net).

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*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

*The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at [pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au) with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.*