



THE UNITING CHURCH
in Australia

ORMOND



THE

PATHFINDER

MAY 2026

MINISTER'S LETTER

AN IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY

This month heralds a very important birthday!

No, not mine, my important birthday comes later in the year! (self-promotion will get you nowhere, Ron!)

No, not the Pope's

No, not Donald Trump's

Yes, Mardie has a birthday this month, but it was not hers I was thinking of either!

The birthday I was thinking of relates to the birth of the church!

But "hang on", I hear you say, "Isn't the birthday of the church on the 22nd June (1977)?"

No! That's the birthday or starting date of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Day of Pentecost (May 24th this year) is the birthday of the church catholic, or better and clearer, the church universal (just so we don't confuse it with the Roman Catholic Church – which, of course, is also a part of the church universal.)

Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles (Acts 2:1-21).

It signifies the birth of the Christian Church and the empowerment of believers to spread the gospel. It is understood as the birthday of the church because it marks the moment when the early disciples were transformed from fearful followers into bold witnesses of Christ's resurrection.

The Holy Spirit's advent signifies unity, empowerment and divine guidance, enabling believers to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers and live in accordance with God's Kingdom values of love, forgiveness and peace. It also emphasises the trinitarian nature of God with the Spirit as the third person of the Trinity, fully God, trustworthy and ever present in the life of the church and the lives of all.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Sunday 17th May

Ormond Uniting Church Annual General Meeting will be held this year on **Sunday May 17th** following worship.

Please note this important date as we would like as many people as possible to attend.

The meeting will follow immediately after our Worship service and then...a little treat. The **Wednesday Home Group** is providing a light lunch of soup and bread which we hope everyone will stay for.

There will be more information closer to the date in News and Notices.

Brenda Grootendorst,
Congregation Secretary

Food donations for Refugees

Last Wednesday I delivered a wonderful donation to the foodbank at the Brigidine Sisters in Port Melbourne. I was helped by a couple of assistant visitors and, while we were transferring the food, it was explained to them that Congregations like ours play a big part in keeping the Foodbank open and make an enormous difference to the lives of the refugees that access the foodbank. They were most grateful for our donations, and I convey their thanks to all that contributed so generously.

During our conversation they shared that **long life milk** is always in very short supply, the donations leave the shelves as soon as they arrive. So, I started thinking about the possibility of us making this month '**MAY MILK MONTH**' and delivering as many 1lt full cream milk cartons to the foodbank as possible by the end of May. Let's see how we go! Donations can be left in the tub anytime.

Other donations are also welcome anytime and can be placed in the tub at the entrance to the Church.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Brenda

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The church observes Pentecost as a season of the Christian Year beginning with the Day of Pentecost (the first Sunday of the season of Pentecost is, fittingly, Trinity Sunday where the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God). It concludes with the feast of Christ the King. Thus, the church, empowered and resourced by the Spirit seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in and for the world.

We at Ormond Uniting are a community faith which exists ONLY because we have the gift of the Spirit. Our challenge is to listen and discern that gift in our individual lives and in the life of the church. That is all! That is authentic Christian Mission.

Happy birthday Ormond Uniting Church (and all the other branches of Christ's Church, too!) for May 24!

Ron Townsend.

Our thanks to Ron for providing this inspiring letter while Ji is on leave.

Ji's Leave

Ji is on leave until the end of this month (May). He is currently in the USA pursuing his research.

Thank you to Revd Viola Leung, Revd Ron Townsend, Brad Denniston and Revd Susan Stott-Floyd who have led us so inspiringly in our worship during April. During May our worship will be led by Revds Ann Simons, Ron Townsend and Viola Leung.

If you require the services of a minister during the time Ji is away, please call the church phone no. (0411 958 127). Cate or Robyn will respond to your call and organise support.

Trek Musicals

In Concert

**Sunday 24 May, 2.00 pm
in the church.**

Showcasing Famous Music Theatre Collaborations

Gilbert and Sullivan

Lerner and Lowe

Rodgers and Hart

Rodgers and Hammerstein

Join us for a concert of solos, duets and choruses written by these well-known duos who have all shaped the development of musical theatre.

In aid of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

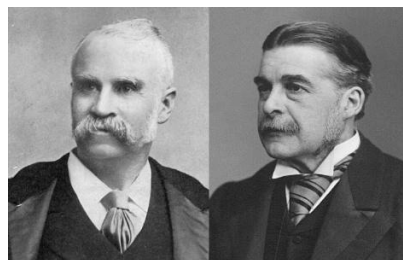
Tickets: \$25 adult \$20 conc/child

TRY booking link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DLNGN>

Tickets also available at the door

For more info or transport, speak with Dianne or Robyn who are organising and performing in the concert.



We were invited!

A big “thank you” to the Mothers Union at Ormond Anglican Church who invited us to attend their meeting on 28th March. Four people from our church attended. Their guest speakers on the day were two women employed by Uniting (the Uniting Church’s Community Services) to deliver the Komak program. Komak, which means “help” or “support” in Dari, is a specialised service supporting Afghan refugees as they navigate challenges like language barriers, social isolation, housing, discrimination, and access to education and training.

Komak is partnering with local sporting clubs to offer culturally inclusive programs that create safe, welcoming spaces for Afghan women and girls aged 12 to 25. The aim is to foster fitness, wellbeing, confidence, and connection to community. All through the power of a variety of sports including cricket, soccer, volleyball and swimming, developing new skills and friendships along the way.

This was a lovely initiative by the members of the Mothers Union to invite us to hear of the work that Uniting is doing. We were also treated to a lovely afternoon tea and very welcoming, warm fellowship.

Welcomers:

Thank you to all our welcomers who ensure that each week the church is prepared for worship, all are welcomed including newcomers and the church is tidied and closed at the end of the morning.

If you are a current welcomer, we will be emailing out a slightly revised list of tasks in the next couple of weeks. If you are unsure of anything, please speak with Dianne.

Could you help out with welcoming every so often? We can always use another pair of hands. Talk with Dianne or another welcomer to learn more.

CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

We are currently doing the two yearly update of our directory which includes the contact details of people in our congregation who wish to be included.

Lorraine and Dianne have already spoken with some people at worship and there seems to be lots of updates to do. You are welcome to:

- speak with us at worship
- contact us on the phone (nos. below)
- email us

to check your details as currently listed and advise of any changes

You can have some or all of the following details included in the directory:

- Name
- Address (or postal address)
- Email address
- Phone number.

If you are not currently listed in the directory and would like to be, please speak with Dianne (0143 750 089) or Lorraine (0448 578 865). Also contact us if you wish your name to be removed.

We are hoping to have all the information collected by Sunday 10th May so your early attention to this would be appreciated.

Many thanks,
Lorraine and Dianne



A very different Easter

We were very fortunate to be able to embark on a cruise, from Sydney to Bali, at the end of March. However; this meant that we were away over Easter, which was a very different experience.

Good Friday was an 'at sea' day as we were sailing between Brisbane and Airlie Beach. With limited Wi-Fi availability we turned to YouTube to provide our Good Friday worship service.

The following day we were informed that there would be a brief interdenominational service on Easter Sunday. That morning we docked at Townsville, but timing did not make local church attendance an option, so after we sailed, the late afternoon onboard service, was very welcome.

This service was held in a small music lounge. A printed order of service was provided by the shipping company, and it was hosted by one of the guest speakers. A resident musician played the keyboard and several hymns were included. About 50 people attended. The feedback was very positive with the feeling being one of community highlighted in the Word, the hymns and the sharing of the peace.

For us in a very real way there was a connection with home and our Ormond faith family.

Marg and Kevin



This is the image that was shown on the screen

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

This year our community lunches are continuing in partnership with CIS Glen Eira who supports us with funding and publicizing the event to users of their service. Those attending have commented on the quality of the food and also the enjoyable conversation with others, including our volunteers. It was noticeable that at our April lunch (9th April) there was more conversation at tables and people stayed longer, enjoying the friendly company.

CIS Glen Eira is also supporting us by sending a volunteer each month who can speak with people about ways to reduce living costs by accessing available resources. We share this information with you as it may assist people in the congregation as well as our lunch guests.

In March, we learned about **free and independent assistance to find, compare and switch energy offers and providers**. CIS Glen Eira Energy Expert volunteer, Michael, is available on Tuesday mornings at Carnegie Library (7 Shepparson Ave, Carnegie) but you do need to make an appointment. Call CIS Glen Eira on 9571 7644 to book and remember to take your latest energy bill to your appointment. (If you need transport to get there, contact Dianne Richter.)

In April, we received information about “**Servo Saver**” – **an app to help you find the cheapest fuel**. This is a very timely reminder that you can use this app, downloadable from the Services Victoria site, to identify the best place to purchase fuel on any given day.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who volunteers on the day (and beforehand) to set up and clean up, cook, serve lunch and welcome and host our guests.

Images: Cover – <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55323>

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49609>

Others by OUC members or website related to the article

ORMOND LEARNING HUB PRESENTS

Service as Mission

Living our theology through community

When Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbour, he makes Diakonia (service) a relational bridge into God's mission. By caring for the marginalised, we embody Christ's ministry in the world. Community service is an integral part of the Uniting Church's history, mission, and vocation.



“Christ washes the disciple's feet” (2010),
photographed by Rev Dr Ji Zhang at Beijing
Theological Seminary, China

How much does Diakonia (service) shape how we understand ourselves as the Church?

Over six weeks, with speakers including Professor Johannes Eurich and Dr Tanja Schmidt - world-leading experts on building connections between church and community service - we will explore what it means to step outside the church building and see God's mission in the world.

We will grapple with questions such as:

- What is the history of our social service vocation?
- What is the theology of service that underpins the church's mission?
- How might we bear witness to Christ in the world through our actions?

Venue	Ormond Uniting Church, 264 Booran Rd, Ormond
Dates	Wednesdays, 1 July – 5 August 2026 (6 weeks)
Time	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Refreshments	Soup and bread, hot and cold beverages provided
Cost	\$75
Enquiries/Enrolments	0411 958 127 office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

BOUDDI can do it! WE CAN TOO!

Let me share a couple of pieces of Good News (and some Bad news!) from the latest RENEW magazine (ISSUE 175).

First the BAD NEWS – I'll get it out the way first, before we hear some very good news!

From the World Meteorological Organization: 2025 was the 2nd hottest year on record at about 1.43 degrees centigrade above the 1850-1900 average AND the last eleven years, from 2015 – 2025, were the hottest 11 years on record! BUT, I don't want to have everybody throwing their arms in the air and saying, 'It's impossible, there's no hope' and then poking our heads in the sand, feeling overwhelmed and paralysed by the immensity of it all. Hoping it will all just go away. I certainly feel like that sometimes!

SO, what about some GOOD NEWS then!!? Yes, GOOD NEWS!

Before I tell the story of the 'BOUDDI experience' (Bouddi is a small village/community on the NSW Central Coast), let me remind YOU, the members of the Ormond Uniting Church, that YOU have already done an incredible job of GOOD NEWS for God's Creation, by supporting the installation of our fantastic Solar System in/on our church building, which means we are now Carbon Dioxide Emission negative! That is such a VERY Good News story, right here at Ormond UC! And an example for others to follow!

Now to the GOOD NEWS BOUDDI story. The central Coast 'suburb' of Killcare on the BOUDDI Peninsula has pounced on the opportunity to electrify their community, to the extent that their 1400 households have DOUBLED (1400) the installation of solar cells in the village (the equivalent of a 3 megawatt power plant - OR the equivalent of 60 X OUC Solar Roof Panels!).

It started with a few community members who were passionate about renewable energy and over the last few years established a community organization called ELECTRIFY BOUDDI (EB). It now has 250 members! Over the last year they have held, *'three Q and A forums (EVs, batteries, and making your house more energy efficient), an Energy Action Day with a cooking demo on an induction cooker, a*

very fun trivia night with energy questions, a great AGM/Christmas drinks event, and a film night for families.’ Renew 175, pg 20.

For more information check out the article in Renew Magazine 175, pg 20, or visit their website: electrifybouddi.org

The BOUDDI community has been enriched in many ways by the establishment of EB, such as significant building up of the local community spirit and connections; created a huge sense of achievement, met significant challenges and dealt with them successfully, motivated people to participate in ‘building a better planet’, and empowered folk to take control of our energy resources. One of the key mover and shakers, Mia concludes: *‘You don’t need experts, just committed people. The skills will emerge. The knowledge will grow. The power is in your hands. You and your community can generate (real) change.’ Pg 21.*

Now, we Christians are at a real advantage in terms of the GOOD NEWS which is central to our individual lives and the life of our Christian Community at Ormond: that is, CHRIST HAS DIED, CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN! That’s where our hope lies, we are freed by that Good News to live life to the full, reflecting the Kingdom values ways and truth of Jesus!

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Love,
Ron

Have you noticed the Prayer Table?

located under the cross on the south side of the church?

You are welcome to use this table for prayer and perhaps to light a taper for a person or situation you are concerned about.

(Rostered welcomers: Please remember to light the central candle before worship each week and extinguish candle and tapers as part of your locking up process.)

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle is a small group that meets monthly for a chat & afternoon tea.

YOU are welcome to join us in the morning tea room at 1.30 p.m. on **MONDAY 18th MAY.**

Take care,

Jan Davenport (9578 1713)



NG

SEEN AT THE GEELONG
BOTANIC GARDENNS

Early Notice to Save The Date

Christmas in July returns this year
at Frank, Karen and Daniel's home.

Saturday, 18th July, 2026

More details next month.

Lectioary Readings

May 3	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
May 10	Easter 5	Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21
May 17	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47 or <i>Psalm 93</i> , Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53
May 24	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or <i>Numbers 11:24-30</i> , Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or <i>Acts 2:1-21</i> , John 20:19-23 or <i>John 7:37-39</i>
May 31	Trinity Sunday	Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20
June 7	Pentecost 2	Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-12, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 14	Pentecost 3	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7), Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

CONTACTS at ORMOND UNITING CHURCH

We acknowledge, with respect, the heritage of the Boon-Wurrung people in this place.

Website: <http://www.ormondunitingchurch.org>

Street Address: 264 Booran Road, Ormond
3163 (cnr North and Booran Rds)

Phone: [0411 958 127](tel:0411958127)

Email Address:

office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Sunday Worship Time: 10.00 a.m.

Livestream Link (Zoom):

Meeting ID: 889 8127 2730 Passcode: 639296

Minister: Rev. Dr. Ji Zhang

Phone: [0409 020 319](tel:0409020319)

Email: Minister@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Office Administrator: Cate

Office Hours: 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Safe Church Contact:

Brenda: [0433 494 600](tel:0433494600)

Articles for Pathfinder:

Articles or information for publishing in Pathfinder (monthly newsletter) should be emailed to dianne_ric@yahoo.com.au by last Monday of the month

Rosters

	Reading	Prayers	Communion	Welcoming	AV
May 3	Suzie F	Heather B	Lorraine D Marg D	Brenda G Graeme D	Nev P
May 10	Marg D	Warwick B		Frank O Robyn M	Lisa S
May 17	Lisa S	Marg D		Jan D Dianne R	Robyn M
May 24	Gary R	Warwick B		Gary R Lynne P	Nev P
May 31	Warwick B	Heather B		Lynne P Nev P	Gary R
June 7	Heather B	Dianne R	Gary R Warwick B	Hans T Brenda G	Graeme D
June 14	David N	Marg D		Jan D Graeme D	Lisa S

	Music	Tea & Coffee	Resource Delivery	Coffee Spot	Mowing
May 3	Karen R	Brenda G Jan D	Marg D	2/5 Team 1	
May 10	Peter H	Brenda G Sue M	Frank O	9/5 Team 2	
May 17	Peter H	Lynne P Nev P	Marg D	16/5 Team 3	Lisa & Rod
May 24	Peter H	Suzie F Jan D	Gary R	23/5 Team 4	
May 31	Karen R	Lorraine D Brenda G	Lynne P	30/5 Team 1	
June 7	Peter H	Suzie F Lisa S	Brenda G	6/6 Team 2	Gary & Frank
June 14	Peter H	Lynne P Nev P	Frank O	13/6 Team 3	

Diary Dates

Saturday 2 nd May	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 3 rd May	10.00 a.m.	Worship – Revd Ann Simons
Thursday 7 th May	12.30 p.m.	Community Lunch
Saturday 9 th May	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 10 th May	10.00 a.m.	Worship – Revd Ron Townsend
Thursday 14 th May	7.30 p.m.	Church Council
Saturday 16 th May	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 17 th May	10.00 a.m.	Worship – Revd Ann Simons
	11.00 a.m.	Annual General Meeting
	12.00 noon	Soup and Bread lunch
Monday 18 th May	1.30 p.m.	Friendship Circle
Wednesday 20 th May	12.00 noon	Wednesday Home Group
Saturday 23 rd May	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 24 th May	10.00 a.m.	Worship – Revd Viola Leung
Thursday 28 th May	7.30 p.m.	Formation Group
Saturday 30 th May	8.30 a.m.	Bob's Boys
	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 31 st May	10.00 a.m.	Worship – Revd Dr. Ji Zhang
Monday 1 st June	6.00 p.m.	Material for <i>Pathfinder</i> due
Thursday 4 th June	12.30 p.m.	Community Lunch
Saturday 6 th June	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 7 th June	10.00 a.m.	Revd Dr. Ji Zhang
Thursday 11 th June	7.30 p.m.	Church Council
Saturday 13 th June	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop
Sunday 14 th June	10.00 a.m.	Revd Dr Ji Zhang
Saturday 20 th June	9.30 a.m.	Unity Tea and Coffee Stop