

Ashburton-Burwood Uniting Church

AUC- 3 Ashburn Gve Ashburton – BUC- Cnr Warrigal Rd & Hyslop St Glen Iris

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<https://ashburton.unitingchurch.org.au/>

<https://burwood.ucavictas.org.au/>



Purpose: *Welcome all. Nurture faith. Grow disciples.*

Vision: *A welcoming missional community, nurturing faith and growing disciples, sharing God's love intentionally, serving God's world compassionately and striving to be faithful followers of Jesus*

Sunday 25 January 2026 – Epiphany 3 - Year A

Service at BUC

NB. There is no live streaming of the service in January

This Sunday is our last regular worship service together at Hyslop St before commencing weekly worship services at Ashburn Grove, as we decided at our congregational meeting in December 2025. A special service of celebration for the Burwood Uniting Church will be organised sometime later this year. We are thankful for the many people who have contributed to the life of the Burwood Uniting congregation, and for those who continue to contribute to our new combined congregation, Ashburton-Burwood Uniting.

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME/ *CALL TO WORSHIP (See over page)			Mary
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY			Mary
OPENING HYMN	TiS 143	<i>Immortal, invisible, God only wise</i>	Mary
**RESPONSIVE READING (see over page)		<i>Psalm 27: 1, 4-9</i>	Mary
PASSING THE PEACE			Mary
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS PRAYER			Fran
WE SING	TiS 151	The Love of God is greater far	Mary
NOTICES, JOYS AND CONCERNS			Fran
OFFERTORY HYMN & OFFERTORY BLESSING	TiS 582	<i>Lead kindly Light</i> Fran could introduce the hymn and Rosie will do the blessing	Rosie
WE SING – (Be seated)	TiS 598 verse 4	<i>"Drop thy still dews...</i>	
PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION			Rosie
SCRIPTURE READINGS		John 1:1-4 and 10-14 -(Michael) John 6: 47-51 and 66-69 (Sam)	
WE SING	TiS 211 (ii) Hollingside	Jesus, lover of my soul	
MESSAGE		For nothing is impossible with God	Rosie
CLOSING HYMN	TiS 147	<i>To God be the Glory</i>	
BLESSING & BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN			Rosie

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Before we were born, God knew us.

God knit us together in the womb.

God searches out our paths, and
tracks us along our way.

**So we praise God, for we are
fearfully and wonderfully made.**

There is nowhere we can go where
God is not with us.

**How wonderful are all God's
works! Let us worship God
together.**

ROSTER – 25 January 2026 at BUC – Epiphany 3 – Year A

Worship Leaders: Rosie Watkin, Mary Casey

Notices/Prayers of the People: Fran Willmott

Musicians: Colin Prohasky, Anne Forrest,
Miff Schlipalius, Anne Campbell

Singer: Lance Schlipalius

Readers: Michael Donnelly, Sam Szeredi

Door, Greeting, Offering: Howard Hamlyn; Marco Mattucci

Computer & Sound: Adrian Miller

Power Point: Adrian Miller

Morning Tea/Clean Up: Jenny Stone; Sam Szeredi; Lynnda McKie

Online Communications: Christine Chappell/Dawn Sullivan

****RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 (Congregation to respond to the bold print)**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after;

to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in God's temple.

For God will shelter me in the day of trouble;

**God will conceal and cover me
God will set me high on a rock.**

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in God's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**"Come," my heart says, "seek God's face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.**

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

**Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!**

SUNDAY 1 February: @ Ashburton – Communion - *"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted (Mt. 5:4)*

10.00 am Worship Leaders: Minister: Rev Ojitha Goonetilleke

Minister's Steward: Michael Donnelly and the Worship Team

Lectionary Readings: Mic 6:1-8; Ps 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Mt 5:1-12

From your ABUC Pastoral Care Team:

NAME TAGS: Please wear name tags on Sunday mornings. This will help us feel like family if able to speak to others by name; it will also assist visiting ministers and new folk. If you need a name tag please speak to Christine.



BARRY'S PLACE: Open every Thursday from 10 to 11.30am. An opportunity to share in conversation, morning tea and prayer. Drop in, relax and enjoy.

BADMINTON: If you feel like playing badminton the Badminton group at BUC will continue throughout the holidays. Please contact Miff mschlipalius@hotmail.com.

SOME GROUPS are still in recess but check here for starting dates for 2026 marking your diaries accordingly.

TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP Men's group –. Restarting in 2026 on 3rd February. Meets weekly on Tuesdays at 8pm on Zoom. Please contact Paul Mattiske or Michael Donnelly M. 0438 674 247.

WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP using **WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD** will resume in Barry's Place at the Hyslop Street property on Wednesdays 4 February and 11 February from 9am to 10am. All are welcome to share a cuppa and join our discussions.

EASY WALKERS GROUP meets once a month on the first Saturday. Details from grajenstone@bigpond.com Jen:0434 007 463 Graeme:0431 915 198 grajenstone@bigpond.com

SPECIAL MORNING TEA held monthly on the third Wednesday at 10.30am at Ashburton. Starting again on Wednesday February 18

SUPPER AT 6 – held monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 6.00pm at Ashburton. Starting on Wednesday 25 Feb.

VIEWS FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE

The next issue will be available on 1 February 2026. . Do you have a story about starting kindergarten or primary/secondary school or other school experience or having to move to a different school? Please consider putting in an article or two – lots to write about at this time of the year **maybe about starting something new- a career change or a journey!**
Please have to Dawn by 28 January 2026. das42ul@gmail.com

PEW SHEET: Please forward all notices to Dawn das42ul@gmail.com by Wednesday 5.00pm. Please state for which date/s you need your notice to be listed. **The pew sheet is posted online on the Communications page at <https://burwood.ucavictas.org.au/>**

ABUC UPCOMING EVENTS and SERVICES are listed on the **Quarterly Calendar on the Communications page on the BUC website**. Also refer to 'Views from the Lighthouse', Ashburton UC.
NOTE: AUC = Ashburton UC, 3 Ashburn Grove Ashburton - BUC = Burwood UC, 1 Hyslop St., Glen Iris

PRAYER NETWORK: You are invited to send your prayer requests to be shared to Fran at ifwillmott@hotmail.com or Dawn at das42ul@gmail.com by midday on Mondays.
Additional prayers will be circulated as needed. (If email not available:0405 396 009)

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY, especially over the holiday period

Food, toiletries and household goods can be brought to Burwood church to support Burwood Neighbourhood House, Camcare and East Burwood Care. The basket is placed in the foyer at Burwood during the week and in the church during the services on Sundays. Bread is also available for anyone to take. Non-perishable food items can be brought to Ashburton church and placed in the Care & Kindness Pantry which is outside the glass doors of the church under the covered area. People are free to take whatever they need from the pantry at any time. If you wish, you may donate cash which is used to purchase groceries for the pantry. Place cash in an envelope clearly marked "Pantry" and put it in the offering plate or you can make a direct deposit to the church bank account as follows: BSB 033106; A/c No. 121266 – Reference "Pantry" A/c Name: Ashburton Uniting Church Parish Council.

Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless.

Isaiah 58:7 - New Living Translation

Prayer Focus: Loving God, wrap your arms around those who mourn. Bring light into their darkness, peace into their restless hearts, and cherished memories to sooth the pain. May they feel the presence of your love in every breath they take.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the Coorondo staff, the residents and their families as they deal with grief and pray for those who support them.
- Pray for the members of the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) as they go through the process to find a new Ministry Agent for the new congregation of Ashburton-Burwood Uniting Church.
- Pray for the teachers and children who are returning to school. Pray also for the drivers to be super observant, especially around the drop off areas.

WCC Prayer Cycle:

Jan 25 – 31 : Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye

Praise for:

- The 2,000-year presence and witness of the church in Asia Minor (now Türkiye, Cyprus, and Greece) – the region in which St Paul and other apostles first planted the seeds of the Christian faith.
- the Church Fathers who came from this area, along with many men and women who were Christian martyrs, and where seven ecumenical councils were convened

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PRAYER

CYCLE The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>

Feb 1-7: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

An excerpt of prayer by Rev. Ron Gordon for the third Sunday of Epiphany

Jesus, you assure us that when we turn to you, you forgive us and equip us as your people in the world who will not fail in the task you have given us.

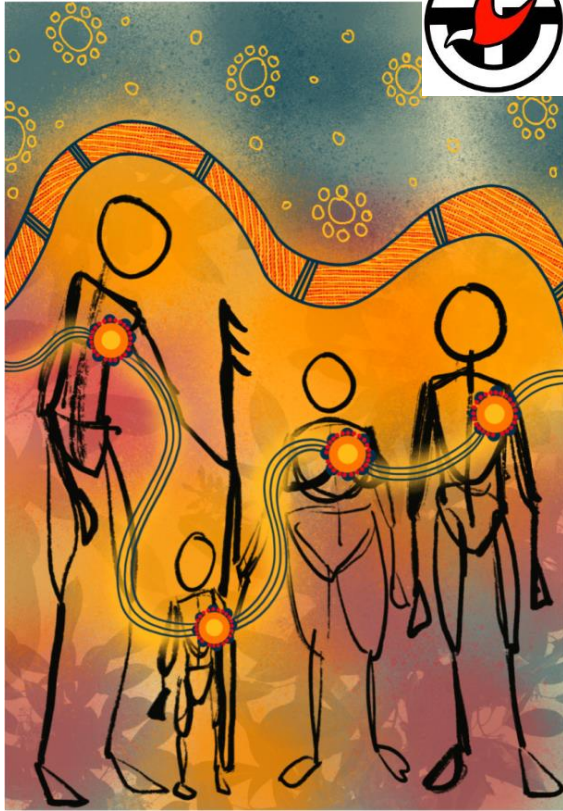
May we be fruitful disciples as witnesses to our generation in the places where we live, in the power of your forgiving, transforming, renewing love. Amen.

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Prayers by Rev Ron Gordon Used with permission.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

Eggs are an excellent diet food. If you don't like the taste, just mix them with flour, sugar, and butter, and bake at 180 degrees!



Day of Mourning - On Sunday 25 January, the Uniting Church in Australia will mark national Day of Mourning 2026. At the request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), the Uniting Church has observed a Day of Mourning on the Sunday prior to 26 January for the past six years.

...

The Uniting Church has been in Covenant with the UAICC since 1994. Bound together by our shared faith, witness, and hope for God's justice and healing, we continue to walk together as First and Second Peoples – sharing in solidarity, joy, and sorrow on the ongoing path toward reconciliation. ... In his welcome message, Interim Co-Chair of the UAICC, Rev Ken Sumner, says "The Day of Mourning provides a crucial moment for deep reflection, confession, listening, and prayer, shaping a shared future for First and Second Peoples in Australia". ...

Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli writes, "Jesus calls ordinary people to leave old patterns behind and follow him into a new way of life grounded in justice, compassion, and shared purpose. Paul urges the early church to be "knit together" despite their differences – an image that resonates deeply for us as First and Second Peoples seeking a common life marked by respect, equity, and reconciliation."

<https://church.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4b3444ce36d66f548255e97b0&id=517b56bd82&e=0450f36c86>

Day of Mourning – Victims Bondi Beach Terrorist Attack - Although the 22 January 2026 (the actual Day of Mourning) has happened you can still look at the link

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/news/national-day-mourning-victims-bondi-beach-terrorist-attack> (Thank you Michael for the link). and you can also see the Victorian State Vigil service held at St Paul's Cathedral [Victorian State Vigil for the Victims of the Bondi Terror Attacks: 11.15am 22 January 2026](#) (Thank you Megan for the link).

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/news/national-day-mourning-victims-bondi-beach-terrorist-attack#bondimitzvah> (Thank you Michael for this link. I have placed the 15 Mitzvah separately on the last page so you can keep it handy to remind you.)

What is a Mitzvah?

A Mitzvah is an act of kindness, compassion, and a moral responsibility. It is about taking practical action to help others, through simple everyday acts of kindness that together create a powerful wave of goodwill. This can be as simple as checking in on a neighbour, volunteering time, offering support to local businesses, or donating to those in need.

Please see over the page for a list of **fifteen suggested Mitzvah for the 15 people lost in the Bondi attack**. It is on a separate sheet so you can remove it from these notices and display it in a prominent place so you keep being reminded of the things you can do to improve living in the world and sharing it with others.

Fifteen suggested Mitzvah for the 15 people lost in the Bondi attack

1. **Give to others** – donate to organisations in service of others.
2. **Uplift the sick** – visit someone who is unwell and offer support.
3. **Help those who have helped you** – perform one small task to help your parent or older relative.
4. **Open your home** – offer hospitality to someone you may not have thought to.
5. **Travel with care** – help those needing transport, treat the roads and drivers with respect.
6. **Act with intent** – reflect with a moment of silence to seek guidance and clarity before beginning a task.
7. **Prioritise family** – spend the first hour of your evening dedicated to your family, screen-free.
8. **Gratitude first** – begin your day with thanks for the good things surrounding you.
9. **Prayer for healing** – say a prayer for the complete physical and spiritual recovery for the victims of the Bondi massacre.
10. **Work with integrity** – give the time you committed to the tasks you committed to.
11. **Pay it forward** – When someone wants to repay you for an act of kindness, encourage them to 'pay it forward' to a stranger instead.
12. **Cherish your partner and friend** – remind those you love every day how grateful you are for all they do for you.
13. **Kindness without expecting anything in return** - Quietly perform an act of kindness to brighten someone else's day.
14. **Teach children** – read children stories that show them all the good in the world.
15. **Legacy of life** – empower the next generation to carry forward not with loss but with hope.

Authors

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet