



Weekly Newsletter

Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday December 22nd 2019

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas
PO Box 176 Drysdale Vic. 3222
(M) 0414 266 645 Email: bobuc3@bigpond.com

Office Hours: Friday 8.30am—12.00noon Tel. 5256 2477
Email: oguc107@gmail.com
Postal Address: PO Box 393 Ocean Vic. 3226
Website: www.oceangrove.unitingchurch.org.au

A warm welcome is extended to all visitors today.
God's richest blessings to you all.

SERVICES TODAY

9.00am Barwon Heads
The Reverend Robert Thomas

10.30am Ocean Grove
The Reverend Robert Thomas

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

9.00am Barwon Heads
Ms. Jean Murray

10.30am Ocean Grove
Ms. Jean Murray

LECTIONARY READINGS

THIS WEEK (Advent 4)
Isaiah 7: 10-16, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Romans 1: 1-7, Matthew 1: 18-25

NEXT WEEK (1st Sunday after Christmas)
Isaiah 63: 7-9, Psalm 148
Hebrews 2: 10-18, Matthew 2: 13-23

KEY VERSE

**"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they
will call him Immanuel, which means, "God with us"
Matthew 1: 23**

BARWON HEADS NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN: If anyone would like to prayer, could you please contact Marilyn Hanson on 0438 398 506, and she will add you to our prayer chain.

FETE: Amid the busy time which is Christmas, please keep in mind preparing for the Fete on **Saturday January 11th**. A list of stalls is posted in the hall with several needing items to sell and helpers on the day. A fete information sheet is also available today.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: Thanks to Greg Carruthers who liaised with IGA to convert our Uniting Church "points" into packaged foods for Christmas Hampers to be distributed in the Geelong region, and to Be Smith who delivered them to Uniting at Grovedale Uniting Church along with our personally donated food items.

FOOD LABELS for Cakes and Preserves Stalls along with Food Providers Lists, are available in the church hall until Sunday 22nd December, and then at Church on Sundays, and in the church hall in the days leading up to the church Fete on Saturday January 11th.

THE NEW GARDEN has been completed and looks wonderful. Thanks to the helpers who have watered the plants during the recent hot days. Please let Doug Whan or Geoff Tamblyn know if can assist over the next few weeks.

THE CAROLS SERVICE last Sunday evening was a wonderful community event. The BHUC band performed splendidly, the BH Chorale was in fine voice and the capacity crowd joined in enthusiastically. The gold coin entry fee raised \$910.75 for the Christmas Bowl Appeal. A great result.

THANKS to the Ocean Grove Men's Shed members who produced the Nativity Scene displayed in our garden along with similar structures at the Anglican and Catholic Churches in the main street.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped set up and pack up for the Community Carol Service last Sunday night. A packed hall enjoyed singing carols accompanied by our church band, listening to the BH Chorale and hearing a message from Bob.

**All welcome to morning tea
in the Church Hall after the Service.**

Fourth Sunday in Advent "Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria"

How do we share God's unconditional love with those who have suffered unimaginable violence? Through your gifts, you can help support Syrian refugees as they rebuild their lives.

Please give to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Tuesday December the 24th
Parish Carol Service at Ocean Grove
7.30pm

Wednesday December the 25th
9.00am at Barwon Heads led by Kel Parry & Ian Cover.
9.00am Ocean Grove led by The Reverend Bob Thomas

Sunday December the 29th
9.00am Barwon Heads, 10.30am Ocean Grove

GREAT NEWS FOR THE OCEAN GROVE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Final approval has been granted for the carpark!
Presbytery approved the increased cost on the 3rd of
December and PART approved the final plans on the 12th of
December.

The contractor is APS of Geelong
"Rod the relieved!"

OCEAN GROVE NEWS

RETIRING OFFERING: For December we will be supporting the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal.

PRAYER CONTACT: If you would like our prayer team to pray for you or others (with their permission) call Robin Munro on 4202 0323

SAMMY STAMP: Please save all the stamps from your Christmas mail for Sammy Stamp. They can be placed in the marked box in the church foyer. All stamps need to be trimmed so that they have a border of envelope **3mm or 1/8 inch wide all the way around** to be acceptable for Sammy Stamp sales in Melbourne. Stamps that are heavily cancelled are also unacceptable. If you have difficulty trimming around your stamps please leave them attached to the envelopes and they will be trimmed by members of the UCAF. Please speak to Judy Greer or Joan Billington if you have any queries. Thank you all for your past support of this ongoing UCAF activity.

DATES FOR 2020 CALENDARS

Recycled Treasure Sale

Setting up Friday January 17th 10.00am. Actual Selling day Saturday January 18th 8.00am—12noon It would be great if someone was able to run the BBQ! Please let Dianne Sapwell know if you can help.

Book and Painting Sale

Setting up Wednesday January 22nd 10.00am **Selling days**
Thursday the 23rd 10.00am—4.00pm, Friday 24th 10.00am—4.00pm
Saturday 25th 10.00am—1.00pm Packing up 1.00pm on the Saturday.
There will be sheet for you to put your name on to help with the selling in two hour shifts.

A SHORT EXTRAORDINARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held on December the 8th and the Congregation voted unanimously to proceed to seeking approval from Synod and Presbytery to continue calling a full-time Minister with the 60% Ocean Grove , 40% Barwon Heads spilt of Stipend costs.

THANK YOU: I would like to sincerely thank all those men who so diligently reproduced John's Star. I have had quite a number of favourable comments. Thanks
Joan Billington.