



Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

Pastoral Statement

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The future of 267 people seeking refuge in our country is weighing heavily on our national conscience.

As many of you are already aware, the High Court of Australia ruled this month that these people, many of them children including 37 babies born here, can legally be transferred from Australia to offshore detention on Manus Island, PNG and Nauru.

While it may be legal, sending people back to the places of their suffering is immoral. Such an action is irreconcilable with Jesus' call to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

We have been calling for the closure of the detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru for many years. The centres are breeding grounds for abuse and despair and damage people's health. Those who are here in Australia have come mostly for medical attention. Doctors and psychiatrists have been warning the Government that return to Nauru will cause them immense harm.

Uniting Church members have joined other Christians, our friends from other faiths, and concerned Australians from around the country to call on the Prime Minister to "let them stay". Doctors, lawyers, artists, writers, teachers, unions, comedians and more are raising their voices too.

For everyone who's prayed, petitioned, or raised the Uniting Church banner at Let Them Stay rallies, thank you for your powerful Christian witness. A growing number of Uniting Church congregations are now offering their churches as a place of sanctuary to people who are at risk of return to Nauru. These decisions are not being taken lightly. The potential legal ramification for individuals involved is uncertain. We cannot know what the Government will do if people choose to seek sanctuary in our churches.

For those congregations who have decided to extend sanctuary, God bless you for your courage and compassion.

The Assembly is working with the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce and the lawyers who are looking after the 267 people. Our first priority is to ensure that nothing we do has harmful consequences for those people seeking asylum. We are also working to gain clarity about the legal issues involved in offering sanctuary and will keep in close contact with the congregations most likely to have the offer accepted.

For those who, for whatever reason, are unable to offer sanctuary, please pray God's protection for these 267 people that they may be kept safe and find in our country the care, protection and hospitality they seek.

And please pray for God to grant us the strength of character to follow fearlessly Christ's exemplary life of compassion in the days and weeks ahead, that the love of God may be made known.

Grace and peace to you.

Stuart McMillan

President

Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

12 February 2016

Welcome to Worship

28th February 2016



Dayboro Uniting Church

8.30am

Pastor Richard Lance

Mt Mee Community Church

4pm

Pastor Richard Lance

This week in Dayboro Uniting Church:

Tuesday 7.30pm Bible Study
Studying John 1, John 2 and John 3
Thursday 1pm Card Sharps
Thursday 7pm Band Practice See Ian
Friday 10am Conversation Club

Next Sunday at Dayboro Uniting Church
6th March 2016 Pastor Richard Lance

Next Sunday at Mt Mee Community Church
6th March 2016 Pastor John Heffernan

Contacts:

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Chair Church Council Caroline Nugent
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Council Secretary Ann Turner 3425 2864
Sunday Space Lorraine Perry
0410 525 267

Minister: Pastor Richard Lance
0447 447 945
dayborounitingchurch@fastmail.fm
Please refer all cases of illness,
hospitalisation or need to Minister.
Please direct requests for weddings,
baptisms or funerals to our minister.

International Women's Day

Promotion of women's health coinciding with International Women's Day—
Monday 8th March
Who: Carolyn Nugent CDM Registered Nurse
What: Women's health/preventive care
When: **Friday 4 March from 10.30am**
Where: MBRC Building—behind ECU
RSVP: Maggie/Angela—Friday 26 February
Phone 3425 1380 Email dayboro@ecu.com.au
Tea, coffee and light refreshments
A Raffle to benefit The Cancer Council

St Patrick's Day 2016

Dayboro Catholic community invites you to:

PADDYMANIA

A night of Trivia and Fun with an Irish Theme
Friday 18th March 2016—7.30pm
Jack's Place –Dayboro Catholic Church McKenzie St Dayboro
Organise a table or join one. There are 8 people to a table.
Cost \$15 per person, this includes nibbles tea and coffee
Bar available on the night
STRICTLY NO BYO DUE TO LICENSING LAWS
Children over 12 years are welcome
Lucky door raffles many prizes to be won
Door takings to be donated to
DAYBORO COMBINED CHURCHES COMMUNITY CHEST
Bookings essential –Pauline 3425 1145

BBQ give away—please speak with Paul about BBQ on the deck

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Where: St Aiden's Anglican Church Dayboro
When: Friday 4th March 2016
Time: 10am
The theme this year is CUBA.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7: 7-8