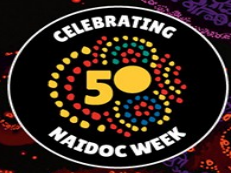




Charman Uniting Church

News Letter

19th July 2026 Vol 7 No 25 Pentecost 8



**NAIDOC
WEEK**
**50 YEARS
DEADLY**
5-12 JULY 2026

Celebrating NAIDOC Week 2026

Further comment by our Pastor Di Paterson -

The other reading for today was Jacob and Esau, the story of 2 brothers, twins at birth but totally different. It might be easy to judge Esau with derision for his hasty trade of his birthright for a bowl of stew. Scripture offers no evidence of a haggle or negotiation, just a simple capitulation to the opportunistic brother. Clearly Esau holds little value in his birthright when he is ridiculously hungry, and Jacob capitalises on his chance to cheat his brother. Let this be an invitation to consider the important things that we hold close.



Jacob and Esau

This NAIDOC week has the theme, '50 years of Deadly.' We might pause to ponder what our country has lost by its failure to recognise or understand the depth of relationship with Country held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. What else might we have paid scant or no attention to?

At the most recent UCA Assembly gathering in July 2024 we celebrated thirty years of covenanting with the UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress). The Assembly was told in no uncertain terms that we must do better. The speaker asked that our relationship be grounded in serious efforts of the church to learn and better develop relationships with Aboriginal and Islander peoples in our local contexts. The VicTas Synod in its Faithful Futures Project sees one of its goals as 'Respecting Country' which invites communities of faith to listen and be able to tell about some of the histories of the country on which we are located.



In the parable of the Sower and the seed, we are invited to hold onto the notion that God sows the seeds of God's love in all terrain, as if it were all good soil. No careful strategy, no study of demographics or census data, no analytics of drop-out characteristics, just an invitation to spread the word widely, and trust that it lands where it needs to.

For thirty years the UCA has recognised the need for God's liberating love to deliver justice for Aboriginal and Islander people. For the organisers of NAIDOC Week, this means, "For the young ones to grow up proud, for the return of language, for return to Country and for the fight for justice to continue with new tools, new voices and the same fire.

May these hopes find fertile soil in which to grow and flourish in abundance. May all expectations be exceeded!

A Prayer for NAIDOC Week...

God of Jacob and Esau, God who sows in abundance, bless all we share in your name, that it may heal divisions and be a blessing to others. God of love and care be with us all as we share together in the business of the Church as we look to the way forward to work with you in our community.

Amen

From Curiosity to Christ: Tola's Journey

Last year, 138,110 shoebox gifts were lovingly sent to Cambodia from AU/NZ. See how one gift has transformed a young girl, her family and her village.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse. It's a hands-on way for you to demonstrate God's love to children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. We collect the boxes and distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ to children living in vulnerable situations.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Empty shoeboxes ready to be filled are available in the entry to the Worship area at our Charman Church



How to Pack a Shoebox Gift

Follow these simple steps to pack a shoebox that's full of love, joy, and lasting impact for a child in need. You can pack a physical or online shoebox gift.

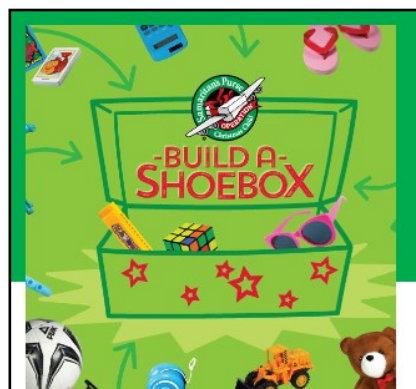
[PACKING INSTRUCTIONS](#)



Shoebox Donation Labels

Purchase your \$12.50 donation per shoebox to help cover shipping and training resources. Labels also include tracking so you can see where your shoebox goes.

[DONATE NOW](#)



Build a Shoebox Online

For \$45, build a shoebox online by choosing gifts for a boy or girl. Each shoebox includes essentials plus your selected items. Add a note and photo, and pack for one or more children.

[BUILD A SHOEBOX](#)

2026 National Collection Weeks

Australia: 12 – 26 October

Click on above images and image at right for more information



Bible Readings July 2026 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

July 5th	Pentecost 6	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12th	Pentecost 7	Genesis 25:19-34	Psalm 119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19th	Pentecost 8	Isiah 55:10-13	Psalm 65 (1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:12-25	Mathew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26th	Pentecost 9	Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 139:1-12, 86 :11-17	Romans 8:26-39	Mathew 13:31-33, 44-52
		Isiah 44: 6-8 23-24	1Kings 3:5-12 Ps 128 Psalm 119: 129-136		

Calling all Crafty Knitters!

The Social Justice group discussed homelessness and rough sleeping and it was suggested that we form a group of crafty people to knit or crochet scarves for these people. We welcome donations of wool/yarn. Those who are willing should speak to Barbara Shying 0407 277 020 or Joan Lum 0437 397 066

We pray for all in need especially -

Prayers of the People



Sybil Bond's family
Robyn
Pat
Adie & Ally
Katherine's cousin David & Family
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Barry
Adrian
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their daughter, Rachel
Maria

Gloria, Samson & Family
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking
Grace & Van Rensberg
Joan's friends Robyn & Jemma
Kath Tondorf
Susan Hoskin
Karen
Helen Cole

Mark
Margaret Walker
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
June and Grace Fairbank

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee "UCA Cheltenham Mentone Parish"

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**



OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

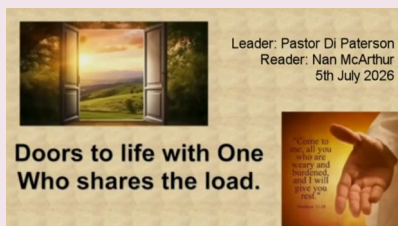


Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 200** sermons and service preludes

This week's video -

"Doors to Life with One who shares the Load" Pastor Di Paterson 5th May 2026

Click on image or [HERE](#) to view



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am *(virtual doors open 9:45 am)*



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09>

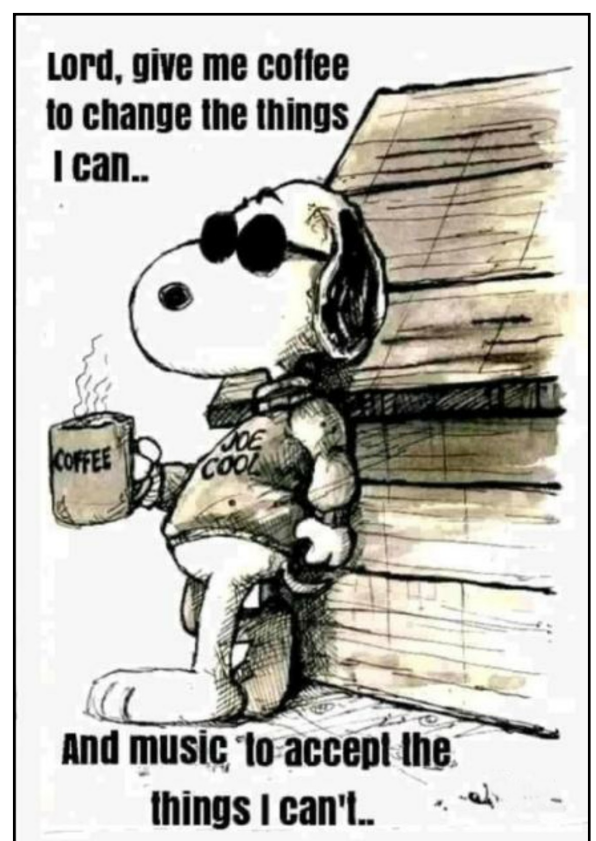
Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

Sunday Church
on Zoom



There's always a solution ...



Thanks to Elizabeth Costello for the latter pair..