



# UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 22nd MARCH 2026

<b>St Andrew's Bendigo</b> 26 Myers Street Bendigo, 3550	<b>Forest Street</b> 21 Forest Street Bendigo, 3550	<b>St Andrew's Axedale</b> 80 High Street Axedale, 3551
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*We recognize that we meet on Jaara land, the traditional home of the Dja Dja Wurrung People. With respect we acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of the Region & pray for reconciliation & justice.*

Welcome to the Sunday service for the Bendigo Central & Axedale Uniting Church. We extend you a very warm welcome and invite you to join us for morning tea following the service.

**Today's Services:** 9.30am Worship Service at Forest St led by Rev Geoff Barker  
2.30pm Worship service at Axedale led by Rev Tim Angus

## THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am Cuppa and Conversation at Quarry Hill. <b>Please note new time</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's – Small Hall
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Palm / Passion Sunday service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Lent 5):** Ezra 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11: 1-45
- **Lectionary readings next week March 29th (Palm / Passion):** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21: 1-11, 26: 14-27: 66 or 27: 11-54

## SUNDAY MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup> DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Judy Causon, Gwenda Pratt

**Vestry:** Carol McKinstry

**Readings and Prayers:** Geoff Barker, Doug Poole

**Morning Tea:** Bruce Johnson (please bring milk), David and Lorraine Castles

## SUNDAY MARCH 29<sup>th</sup> DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Janice West, Dean Shirley

**Vestry:** Glenys Shirley

**Readings and Prayers:** Peter Judd, Dean Shirley

**Morning Tea:** Colleen and Geoff Barker (please bring milk)

## NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

### 2026 EASTER SERVICES

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** 7pm at Forest St

**GOOD FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> April:** 9am at St Andrew's Bendigo

**EASTER SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April:** 9.30am at Forest St

**EASTER SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April:** 2.30pm at St Andrew's Axedale

- **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

It is the time to compile the Annual Report for 2025. Can all reports please be submitted in Word format to [bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com](mailto:bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com) no later than Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you

- **AXEDALE MARCH SERVICES**

The services at St Andrew's Axedale will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for this coming month - March 8 and March 22 - at this stage at the usual time of 2-30pm, with Communion on March 8.

- **CUPPA AND CONVERSATION AT QUARRY HILL**

At our February gathering, we learned that closing time at the Quarry Hill Cafe and Larder is now 2pm each day. Those present agreed that, in future, we will meet instead for morning tea, at 10.30am. Our March gathering will be on **Monday, March 23 at 10.30am.**

All are welcome and please make sure that others know about this new arrangement.

- **BENDIGO INTERFAITH DINNER:** Thursday 26th March in the **Lansell Room**, All Seasons Hotel and Resort, Mclvor Hwy, Bendigo - **Please NOTE the new venue**

Our guest speaker this year is Bishop Philip Huggins, who has a long association with Interfaith action and dialogue, in particular combatting racism and discrimination.

Bookings are open at just \$65 per ticket thanks to our partners, Remembrance Parks Central Victoria who support the dinner generously.

To book, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJNS>. Tables of 8 are available by booking 8 tickets.

We look forward to seeing you on 26th March and to a great night together.

- **BENDIGO SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL** next Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at the Garden of the Future, White Hills from 10am - 4pm (but come to church first). All sorts of stalls and information about sustainability, food and entertainment. More information at [bsg.org.au](http://bsg.org.au)

- **CHURCH PICNIC**

Church Picnic 12<sup>th</sup> April at the Axedale Park on High Street, from 12 pm. BYO food and drinks, BBQ available and there is a café nearby. Bring a chair if possible. There will be games for the children, and play equipment is onsite. Come along and enjoy a fun day in Axedale! For enquiries contact Jenny Bursill or Glenis Dyason

- **SILVERBAND CAMP – HALL GAP**

This year the annual camp is booked for the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August. Please make a note of this date in your diary and further information will be available closer to the date.

- **THE WAY OF THE CROSS**



**THE WAY OF THE CROSS**  
Bendigo's own Passion Play

GOOD FRIDAY April 7th 7:30 PM  
ROSALIND PARK, BENDIGO

PLEASE BRING A PICNIC CHAIR.

SUPPORTED BY THE BENDIGO EASTER FAIR SOCIETY  
THE CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO &  
COMBINED CHURCHES OF BENDIGO



**St Andrew's** office is normally open Mondays: 8:45am-11:45am, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00am - 3:00pm. Please contact Belinda Smith on 5441 3100 or email [bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com](mailto:bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com)

**Forest Street** office is normally open Thursdays from 11am. Please contact Judy McCarthy at [foreststuca@bigpond.com](mailto:foreststuca@bigpond.com) on 5442 4123 or phone her on 5435 2099 on Wednesdays.

Congregation Website [bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au](http://bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au)