Working Bee 9am-12noon, Sat 20th Jan 2024 - thankyou

Lent Activities Easter falls early this year and so Lent begins early also. Here are some activities to look forward to:

Ash Wednesday - 7am, prayer service: 'Imposition of Ash'
Lent Bible Study - 7pm, every Thursday: 15 Feb to 21 Mar

 7pm, every Thursday: 15 Feb to 21 Mar at church, 'Remembering the Poor' a study series prepared by Anglican Overseas Aid

Resources for ministry

Giving can be made directly to our Bendigo Bank Warrandyte account

BSB: 633-000 Acct Number: 140334277.

Church Contact Details

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A welcoming Christ-centred community seeking and working together through the power of the Holy Spirit to worship God, share His good news and grow as disciples of Jesus

Sunday 21st January 2024 Aboriginal Sunday

Aboriginal Sunday falls on the Sunday before 26th Jan, in response to Aboriginal Christian leader William Cooper's original call to the Church

Cooper became a Christian as a young man in about 1884 (see <u>William Cooper's biography here</u>). Cooper's experience of Maloga Mission near Moama appears to have been very positive, due to the honest and supportive ministry of missionary Daniel Matthews. In 1887 Cooper was instrumental in the preparation of the Malgoa Petition to the Government of NSW which asked for land grants to Aboriginal families to support their livelihood. Cooper had a heart to see all Australians work towards the flourishing of our First Nations people and awarded the justice they deserve as citizens of our nation. Cooper's Christian faith led him to call the Church to preach and pray for justice (read about <u>William Cooper's accomplishments here</u>).

Late in life, Cooper moved to Footscray and a new phase of his activism began. By the mid-1930's, Cooper was prominent in seeking direct representation in parliament, enfranchisement and land rights for Aboriginals, and became an impressive example of a person whose faith shaped their civic responsibility. By now monitored by security services and shunned by the Federal Government, Cooper participated in 1938 in the call for a Day of Mourning to commemorate the sesquicentenary of colonisation / invasion.

In the wake of the 2023 Referendum which did not succeed, observing Aboriginal Sunday is a profound way for Christians to continue a journey of reconciliation and solidarity; to keep alive the flame of God's call on all our lives to be a peaceable nation, full of justice and equity.