

# *Sunday at St Michael's*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5 DECEMBER 2021

“SACRED THE BODY”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: DR. ELYANE LAUSSADE (PIANO)  
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTOR: DR. LEIGHTON TRIPLOW

# Second Sunday of Advent: Peace



## Restore peace to the hearts of Gaza's children

The recent bombing of Gaza and the escalation of tensions between Israel and Palestine can make peace feel more distant than ever, especially for children affected by the conflict. Through the Christmas Bowl, you'll help children heal from their trauma and rebuild their childhoods.

Dr Lubna has worked for Act for Peace's partner, the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), in Gaza for 20 years. With help from Australian Christians like you, they bring vital healthcare and support to children, women and young people.



Aishah's daughter Hana\* (4) was diagnosed with anaemia, which can have devastating life-long consequences if left untreated. Act for Peace's local partner, NECC, are helping provide iron supplements to children like her, so they can recover and fulfill their potential.

This care has been helping children and families stay well in the face of huge challenges: protracted fighting, a blockade that makes it hard to access food or medicine, and now COVID-19 hardships.

After the recent bombings, Dr Lubna says children are in greater need of mental health support to deal with trauma they've been through:

*"They draw buildings being bombed and people being killed in the street. They are suffering from anxiety, nightmares and low concentration."*

Thankfully, tensions in Gaza have eased recently, allowing NECC to re-open their health clinics.

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl will help NECC continue their life-changing care and counselling for traumatised children. And you'll bring children the healing gift of play and laughter, in safe spaces where they can just be kids again.

**Please share Christmas with children in Gaza, so they can again feel the peace and happiness that every child deserves.**



## WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

St Michael's is a vibrant, progressive, inclusive church with a long tradition of nurturing the spiritual well-being of the human person and working for the common good in society.

We are proud of our independent spirit; seeking continually to discover new ways to understand faith and to demonstrate it in our lives, and in the heart of the city.

As part of the Uniting Church in Australia, St Michael's is committed to involvement in social and national affairs. We hold foundational Christian values of the importance of every human being, the need for integrity in public life and concern for the welfare of the whole human race, irrespective of race, creed, gender, sexuality, status or age.

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### OFFICE BEARERS

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Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy Chair: Joy Arnot

**Programs**

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy Chair: Neil Blood

**Organist & Manager of Music**

Rhys Boak

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### ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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Please send notices to [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au) by 11.30am Wednesday.



♥ OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS! ♥

Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church.

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

## MEDITATIONS

*Barbara Kingsolver, Animal Dreams, 20th century*

"The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof."

*Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist, 20th century*

"Don't give in to your fears. If you do, you won't be able to talk to your heart."

*Madeleine L'Engle, 20th century*

"Creative scientists and saints expect revelation and do not fear it. Neither do children. But as we grow up and we are hurt, we learned not to trust."



*Augustine of Hippo, 5th century*

"It's not in the book or in the writer that readers discern the truth of what they read; they see it in themselves, if the light of truth has penetrated their minds."

*Meister Eckhart, 14th century*

"The less theorizing you do about God, the more receptive you are to [God's] inpouring."

*The Visitation - Painting in the church of El Sitio, Suchitoto, El Salvador*

# ONLINE GATHERING NOTES

## CANTORS

Jesika Clark, Timothy Reynolds, Georgia Wilkinson

## CHOIR

The St Michael's Singers

## MUSICIANS

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

The St. Michael's Brass Ensemble

Rhys Boak (Organ)

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Gnossienne* No. 1 – Erik Satie (1866-1921)

The iconic piano music of Erik Satie was years before its time.

Written at the end of the 19th century, Satie's *Gnossienes* are the clear forerunners of 20th and 21st century minimalist composition.

Divinely contemplative and spiritual, this music causes us to pause in the present moment, to observe and to reflect.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

## POSTLUDE

'Lord save your people' – C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

Written at the time of the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918, and at the end of the tragedy of Word War 1, this noble music by the great French organist and composer, Charles-Marie Widor is music of great courage and resolution. The work, for brass and organ, seems appropriate as humanity faces another new variant of Covid-19.

The St. Michael's Brass Ensemble

Rhys Boak (Organ)

## PROCESSIONAL

*The candles are lit.  
The chimes call the hour of worship.  
The people stand, as they are able, as the Bible is carried in.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

The land on which St Michael's stands is the sovereign and unceded country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

***We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present,  
who have cared for this country since its creation.  
We commit ourselves to working for a more just sharing  
of resources and power between the First and Second  
peoples of Australia.***

*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,  
wherever you've come from, wherever you're going to,  
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe,  
you are welcome.*

## GATHERING WORDS FOR ADVENT

With the rising of the sun,  
symbol of light, life and hope,  
we gather in the season of Advent.  
We are a community of hope,  
looking to the new day of compassion and hope,  
longing for the time when justice and peace  
shall reign on the earth.

## HYMN

LET US BUILD A HOUSE  
CANTOR: DR. LEIGHTON TRIPLOW

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive;  
built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*



Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

*Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950 - )*



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

We light this candle  
recognising that peace is not simply the absence of war;  
but can only truly exist  
where there is justice and human dignity for all.

***We remember that no one lies outside  
the Sacred circle of grace and peace.***

*The candle is lit*

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

O Spirit, conceiver of possibilities beyond our dreaming,  
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the world,  
You are the song before it is sung, the music of the cosmos,  
luring and inviting us into the eternal chorus of creativity.

Before time, before space, before being,  
you sang the song of Earth:  
stirring into life a place for humanity to stand  
drawing together the rich harmonies of your dream for us  
bringing into being a common treasury for all.

God whose body is creation,  
rescue us from our desire to sing solo;  
remind us of our responsibility toward all your singers  
reclaim, reshape, renew us as choristers of your kin-dom.

Through the harmonies of Mary, Elizabeth, Jesus and John,  
show us again, the score of your song  
where melodies of hope, peace, joy and love mingle and meld  
to bring about your justice, your righteousness,  
your freedom for all your people.

## JESUS' PRAYER

***Most compassionate Life-giver,  
may we honour and praise you:  
may we work with you to establish your new order of  
justice, peace and love.***

***Give us what we need for growth,  
and help us, through forgiving others,  
to accept forgiveness.***

***Strengthen us in the time of testing,  
that we may resist all evil.***

***For all the tenderness,  
strength and love are yours,  
now and forever.***

***Amen.***

## SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace and presence of the Divine be with you.

***And also with you.***

*People are invited to offer greetings  
and share signs of peace.*

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45, 56

ANTHONY BENDALL

For lovers and life-givers,

***We give thanks.***

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Nocturne in C# Minor opus posthumous

– Frédéric François Chopin (1810-1849)

The author, George Sand wrote of Chopin in her biography: "His genius was filled with the mysterious sounds of nature, but transformed into sublime equivalents in musical thought, and not through slavish imitation of the actual external sounds. The gift of Chopin is [the expression of] the deepest and fullest feelings and emotions that have ever existed. He made a single instrument speak a language of infinity. He could often sum up, in ten lines that a child could play, poems of a boundless exaltation, dramas of unequalled power."

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

## CONTEMPORARY READING

"Blessing the body" by Jan Richardson

This blessing takes  
one look at you  
and all it can say is  
holy.

Holy hands.  
Holy face.  
Holy feet.  
Holy everything  
in between.

Holy even in pain.  
Holy even when weary.  
In brokenness, holy.  
In shame, holy still.

Holy in delight.  
Holy in distress.  
Holy when being born.  
Holy when we lay it down  
at the hour of our death.

So, friend,  
open your eyes  
(holy eyes).  
For one moment  
see what this blessing sees,  
this blessing that knows  
how you have been formed  
and knit together  
in wonder and  
in love.

Welcome this blessing  
that folds its hands  
in prayer  
when it meets you;  
receive this blessing  
that wants to kneel  
in reverence  
before you:  
you who are  
temple,  
sanctuary,  
home for God  
in this world.

For Wisdom in the Word of old  
for contemporary insights in poetry and song  
for Word made flesh in a baby—and in us  
***We give thanks.***

## HYMN

## SACRED THE BODY



Sacred the body God has created,  
temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside.  
Cherish each person; nurture relation.  
Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.

Bodies are varied, made in all sizes,  
pale, full of colour, both fragile and strong.  
Holy the difference, gift of the Maker,  
so let us honour each story and song.

Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries.  
Love does not batter, neglect or abuse.  
Love touches gently, never coercing.  
Love leaves the other with power to choose.

Holy of holies, God ever loving,  
make us your temples; indwell all we do.  
May we be careful, tender and caring,  
so may our bodies give honour to you.

*Words: Ruth Duck (1947-)  
Tune: Bunessan  
Gaelic melody*

## REFLECTION

## SACRED THE BODY

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Valse in E flat Major – Marie-Auguste Durand (1830-1909)

This wonderful work by the French composer, and later noted music publisher is sadly seldom heard today. Although working as a musician and composer for most of his life, today the name Durand is best known as that of the celebrated French music publishing company he founded.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In thanksgiving and solidarity...*

## HYMN

## YOU ARE BORN IN US AGAIN



You are born in us again.  
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,  
to melt away the icicles of vanity and pride;  
you come to blow the very doors of loving open wide.  
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,  
like the warmth of the summer wind you come.

You are born in us again.  
Like the scent of the summer rain you come.  
You come to quench the thirsty and to freshen up the land;  
you come to clean away dust that's settled in our hand.  
Like the scent of summer rain you come,  
like the scent of the summer rain you come.

You are born in us again.  
Like the light of the summer sun you come,  
to give light to the places that have never seen the sun:  
you come now to embrace us, you're the holy, holy one.  
Like the light of the summer sun you come,  
like the light of the summer sun you come.

Words: Shona Murray  
Tune: Dunstan. Mark Wilson  
arr. Shona Murray

## OFFERING PRAYER

*A prayer dedicating the Sunday offering  
and gifts given in other ways to support the work of the church.*

***Spirit of life, we believe in what these gifts can do,  
the good that can come of them,  
and the light that can dawn through them.  
Bless these gifts as they make their way in the world.  
Amen.***

## HOLY COMMUNION

### WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*The bread is gluten-free and  
the wine is unfermented grape juice.*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Divine Presence is here.

***We lift our hearts in joy.***

We give thanks to you, O God, for you love the world.

You look upon creation and name it good.

***You conceive in us possibilities,  
and carry us on into the timeless struggle  
of bringing to birth your reign of love.***

We praise you, God of the loving heart,  
for creating all things seen and unseen,  
for making us in your image,  
and for seeking us when we turn away.

We thank you for being known to us in Jesus the Human One,  
who was faithful even to death on a cross,  
who lives among us still as Christa/Community.

Through the power of your Spirit,  
open our eyes to the Risen One present among us  
in the breaking of the bread.

Draw us into communion with you and one another  
that we may be signs of your love in this broken world,  
as we anticipate the coming of your reign of justice and peace.

***To you, Eternal Source,  
with Embodied Wisdom  
and the Spirit of Love  
be glory and honour now and forever.***

## THE STORY

On the night before Jesus died,  
as he shared a meal with friends,  
Jesus took some bread, and set aside some wine,  
honouring the God of faithful presence  
in the ordinary of life.

He gave thanks for all the blessings in his life.  
Broke the bread.  
Poured out the wine.  
And shared both with his friends.

We break bread as Jesus broke bread,  
mindful of the call to love generously and faithfully,  
whatever the cost.

We pour out wine  
mindful of our responsibility  
to be bearers of forgiveness,  
creators of justice and understanding.



Holy God, let your Spirit well up in us  
and in these gifts of bread and wine,  
that we may be filled with hope for the journey.

***Amen.***

#### SHARING BREAD AND WINE

The bread of life. ***Amen.***

The cup of blessing. ***Amen.***

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of heaven and earth,  
you make us one in Christ.

***Inspire us with new vision  
and the wisdom of ancient dreams.  
Give us eyes to see you in friend and stranger  
that we may live out your radical hospitality.  
Amen.***

#### NOTICES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

##### HYMN

##### THE WORD OF LIFE

In a byre near Bethlehem,  
passed by many a wand'ring stranger,  
the most cherished Word of Life  
was heard breathing in a manger,  
for the good of us all.

***And Christ's here now to call us,  
to life, faith and justice,  
Emmanuel – God with us  
in the cradle and cross.***

By the Galilean lake,  
where the people flocked for teaching,  
the most vital Word of Life,  
came in parable and preaching,  
for the faith of us all.

*Refrain.*

Quiet was Gethsemane,  
camouflaging priest and soldier;  
the most secret Word of Life  
took the world's weight on his shoulder,  
for the love of us all.

*Refrain.*

On the hill of Calvary,  
place to end all hope of living,  
now the cross-bound Word of Life  
breathed his last and died forgiving,  
for the pain of us all.

*Refrain.*

In a garden, at the dawn,  
near the grave of human violence,  
the eternal Word of Life  
spoke once more and broke the silence,  
for the hope of us all.

*Refrain.*

*Words: John Bell  
Tune: Wild Mountain Thyme  
Irish Traditional*

## BLESSING

Follow where the Spirit of Hope leads you,  
listen, as the Child of Peace cries for you,  
rejoice, as Sacred Love embraces you.  
Go forward with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in your heart  
and the blessing of God – Lover, Beloved and Spirit of Love  
be with you and with all creation, now and always.

## SUNG AMEN



*African-American spiritual*  
*Arr. N. T. Johnson*

## POSTLUDE

‘Ondine’ from ‘Gaspard de la nuit’ - Maurice Ravel

‘Gaspard de la nuit’ is a suite for piano in three movements by the celebrated French composer, Maurice Ravel. The three movements are all based upon poetry by Aloysius Bertrand.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

## OFFERINGS

Offerings to support the ministry and shared life of St Michael’s received with gratitude.

In church, in addition to the offering boxes placed by the doors, you now have the opportunity to give electronically and securely in church at two Donation Points: one at the entrance on the corner of Collins and Russell, the other in the St Michael’s Walk Colonnade. To give, simply tap your credit or debit card, smartphone or wearable on the ‘tap and go’ device where indicated. Donations are set at \$10. If you wish to give more, you can do so by tapping as many times as you like. Online there is a ‘Giving’ button with instructions for online giving. A downloadable donation form is also available. Cheques may be mailed to St Michael’s Office. Online banking: St Michaels Uniting Church. BSB: 083004. A/C: 515113338

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Blessing the body” by Jan Richardson in *Circle of Grace*.

Jesus’ Prayer by Rev William Wallace. Retired Methodist minister.  
New Zealand.

“Let us build a house.” Words and Tune: Marty Haugen

“Sacred the Body.” Words: Ruth Duck. Tune: Bunessan. Gaelic melody

“You are born in us again.” Words: Shona Murray. Tune: Mark Wilson,  
arr. Shona Murray.

“The Word of Life.” Words: John L. Bell. Tune: Wild Mountain Thyme.  
Irish Traditional.

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## GUEST MUSICIAN IN-CHURCH AND ONLINE

### **Dr. Elyane Laussade**

Here is what the New York Times said about Elyane Laussade, “*a pianist with a polished technique . . . dazzling power . . . and an impeccable sense of style.*” A graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City, pianist Elyane Laussade has delighted audiences on five continents for her imaginative and strongly individual playing. Since arriving in Australia, Elyane has established herself as one of Australia’s finest pianists. She has appeared in the MSO’s Metropolis Festival with Marcus Stenz and has been featured many times by ABC Classic FM and 3MBS in studio recordings and live broadcasts. She performed St. Saens’ *Carnival of the Animals* with the MSO in Hamer Hall with pianist Benjamin Martin under the baton of Anthony Ingliss. Elyane performed De Falla’s *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in a concert which was broadcast across Australia.

As a soloist, Elyane performs in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the USA and in Europe. She has toured Taiwan where she performed recitals in Taipei, Tainan, Chaoyi, and at the National Concert Hall in Taichung. Elyane was also invited to perform at the first recorded performance at the Elizabeth Murdoch Recital Hall in the new Melbourne Recital Centre which aired on the ABC television program “Catalyst.”

## GUEST MUSICIANS ONLINE

### **The St. Michael's Brass Ensemble**

Founded in 2007, the St. Michael's Brass Ensemble has performed at many important services at St. Michael's. For this service online, the ensemble is led by David Musk (Trumpet) with guest conductor, Christopher Watson.

## NOTICES

### NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S AT CHURCH

"Spirituality and Liberation"

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 12 December 2021

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music in Church: Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)

Music Online: Max Riebl (Countertenor), Rose Riebl (Piano).

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), The Nuovo Quartet, &

Rhys Boak (Harpsichord & Organ)

### SUNDAY SERVICES AT CHURCH – COVID-19 VACCINATION

St Michael's Sunday services are offered online and in-person at the Church. To attend St Michael's, you need to be fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption.

St Michael's is responsible for ensuring everyone scans the QR code and provides evidence of vaccination or proof of exemption from an authorised medical provider.

There is important information from the Church Council on our website <https://stmichaels.org.au/the-church/covid-19-response/>

## HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING:

### CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS (CAN) COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Through December, St Michael's will be collecting holiday gifts at the church. These will be donated to our Uniting Church neighbours in Carlton - Church of All Nations (CAN) Community Support.

New and unused gifts are gratefully received, especially books for children aged 5-12, stationery items (coloured pens and pencils) and craft supplies. Water bottles, keep cups and reusable face masks are great adult gifts ideas. Hand cream and body lotion are always appreciated. If you are not able to bring a gift, you might consider a donation that will people at CAN to purchase gifts for their the people they serve.

We plan to deliver the gifts to Carlton on Monday 20 December, but gifts received later will still be welcome. If necessary we will organise a second delivery after New Year.

## ACT FOR PEACE – CHRISTMAS BOWL

**Second Sunday of Advent**



Richard Weinwright / Act for Peace

### Bringing Peace to children in Gaza

The recent bombing of Gaza and the escalation of tensions between Israel and Palestine can make peace feel more distant than ever, especially for children. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner run three health clinics across Gaza. They provide medical care and psychosocial support, including counselling and a place where children can play and feel safe. Your support gives children in Gaza a chance at the childhood they deserve. **Please give today.**



**Christmas Bowl**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## CONTACT AND CARE

If you are going through difficult times or would like to have a chat with someone, a member of our Contact and Care Team would be very happy to have a talk with you.

Any personal information shared will remain confidential.

You can speak with the Chair of Contact and Care, Lyndell O'Brien, on a Sunday at church, or leave your name and phone number or email address with the St. Michael's office and she will get in touch with you.

Lyndell O'Brien: Chair of Contact and Care

Joy Arnot: Deputy Chair

## CARE AND PRAYER GROUP

We are a small group of people, part of the St Michael's Contact and Care team, known as The Prayer Tree.

We commit to prayer and support for you, or someone known to you, who is going through difficult times. All requests are treated with confidentiality, sensitivity and respect.

To request our support, please call the St Michael's office on 9654 5120 and ask for your first name and phone number to be passed on to Catherine Jones, who will then be in contact you. Or you can speak with Catherine following morning service. She will pass on your request to the remainder of the group.

We are here for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Catherine Jones, Prayer Tree Leader

## PASTORAL CARE

Our minister, Rev Dr Margaret, is available for pastoral care meetings by phone. Please call the office to arrange a time for Margaret to contact you.

## ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>



## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### THURSDAY TWILIGHT ORGAN RECITALS

Introducing St Michael's Twilight Organ Recitals.

Every Thursday, the church doors open and the Grand Organ comes to life with performances from St Michael's organist, Rhys Boak, and guest artists.

From Thursday 9 December enjoy a concert at 6:15pm.

The Twilight Organ Recitals will replace the Thursday Lunchtime Recitals.

**When:** Thursdays | 6:15pm – 6:45pm | Free Entry

Visit [www.stmichaels.org.au/music](http://www.stmichaels.org.au/music) for more details.

### MINGARY-CAIRNMILLAR COUNSELLING

The Mingary-Cairnmillar Counselling Service offers appointments for counselling and Vocational Assessments via telephone or video conference. There is no charge for counselling appointments.

For more information, please see the Mingary website.

<https://www.mingarycounselling.com.au>.

To make an appointment, call 1800 391 393 (free call) or email [clinic@cairnmillar.org.au](mailto:clinic@cairnmillar.org.au)