

PURPLE.... THE FASHION COLOUR

As we celebrate our sixth Wear Purple Day at St Ives, we do so with a world-wide movement that recognises World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on the 15th June. In recent years the event has grown significantly in Australia.

In Ku-ring-gai, Uniting churches including Roseville Uniting Church, where the former Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne is the guest, and Gordon Uniting Church, have special programs.

Within Uniting Care Ageing, special mid-week church services and afternoon teas will focus on respecting, valuing and honouring Seniors. Life reviews that have been published in book form and recorded on video will be presented at Wesley Heights Aged Care. Staff there have become very involved over the years, taking up the purple theme and actively participating.

Throughout NSW, Queensland and Victoria widespread recognition of the occasion is occurring, both within churches and in the community at large. At dusk on Friday 14th at the Arts Spire in Federation Square in Melbourne the spire lit up in purple. People were encouraged to go along, to learn more about elder abuse and to collect a purple ribbon to wear. In Brisbane's Queen St Mall on Saturday 15th, a flash mob of purple – dressed singers attracted shoppers with Beatles and other songs. More broadly, governments and community organisations in the eastern states are using our Respect for Seniors resource material throughout the year. Through education it is hoped that the incidence of domestic violence will be lessened.

We are pleased that you are with us at St Ives this morning, to help us celebrate the occasion, and showing your fashionable purple.

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*



'Respect for Seniors' and 'Wear Purple Day' are initiatives of St Ives Uniting Church now gaining wider acceptance throughout the community.

www.respectforseniors.org

Our Guests

Rev Jorge Rebolledo



Jorge Rebolledo was ordained as a Minister of the Word in 2009 and previous to that was a Lay Pastor since 2007.

Jorge has been in congregational ministry with Spanish speaking congregations, held the position of Academic Registrar at United Theological College for almost a decade and was the Synod Consultant for the Specified Ministry of Pastor.

Included among Jorge's most recent placements is the "Flying Padre" role based in the Broken Hill Patrol of Frontier Services where he flew a Cessna 182 (lovingly referred to as *IRMA*) pastorally caring for people on isolated properties and stations, and supplying chaplaincy for schools, prisons and mines. Presently Jorge is placed as an Aged care chaplain with UnitingCare Ageing and has a pastoral responsibility for around 200 people over two facilities.

Jorge has degrees in theology, ministry, education, management and leadership and has qualifications in counselling and mediation.

Jorge is married to Susan and has four children, Jonathan (19), David (18), April (13) and Olivia (1)

Dr Yvonne McMaster OAM



Yvonne McMaster began her professional life as a GP on the North Shore. In 1974 she joined the visiting medical staff at Neringah Hospital. At that time the dying were treated kindly, but pain management was in its infancy. The International Association for the Study of Pain held its first World Congress in Florence in 1975 and Yvonne and her husband, an anaesthetist attended.

She introduced world best practice palliative care into Australia, allowing patients to have the best possible quality of life for the time they had left. Palliative care in its modern form is about helping people with a life limiting illness to live as fully as possible.

Yvonne particularly enjoyed the last five years of work when she was charged with the palliation of people living at home in Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai.

Since retiring (too early) in 1997 Yvonne has co-led a weekly support group for people with advanced cancer at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Funding cuts in 2010 triggered her current passion: advocacy for palliative care. Her first petition raised 24,000 signatures, forced a parliamentary debate and the return of the funds.

When sufficient additional funds for the rest of NSW failed to materialise in 2012 she started another petition, raising 58,864 signatures from all over NSW. Another debate and more promises resulted.

So the work goes on, collecting even more signatures, lobbying politicians, organising media coverage, pestering bureaucrats, visiting rural areas and sitting on committees. It will almost certainly never end.

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