



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Synod of New South Wales and the ACT

Uniting Church in Australia

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## **Sacrifice can make a difference, says Uniting Church Moderator**

Easter reminds us that giving of self can make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others, says the Rev. Niall Reid, Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of New South Wales and the ACT in his 2009 Easter message.

### **The Easter message follows:**

It is all too easy to get caught up in debates about whether one should gamble or shop or play sport on Good Friday and miss the point.

Easter has something to say to our society which is much more significant at this time.

Easter tells a story in two parts: the first part is about self-sacrifice for the greater good; in the second part it becomes apparent that the sacrifice is life-giving.

This is a template for life, for creating a world in which all people experience fulfilling life. In our society today, in all sorts of ways, we need people to apply the template of Easter to their lives.

For example:

- All the executives of corporations who have received huge bonuses or payouts could sacrifice them both as a sign of solidarity with those who are losing their entire incomes as their jobs disappear and as a resource for creating new jobs.
- Those who are not so wealthy but who receive stimulus bonuses from the government might also like to sacrifice them to provide a fund to create jobs or to fund community activities that support local businesses.
- As we seek to address issues of climate change, as a nation and as individuals, surely we can set an example, sacrifice something of our very high standard of living, reduce our use of energy-guzzling commodities such as cars and air-conditioning, push for clean technology to harness energy, and provide support for those who will be affected by the loss of jobs in certain industries.

Such sacrifices inspire! They are also life giving — not only for our world and our communities but also for those who choose to give of themselves, sacrificially.

Easter reminds us: The example and action of giving of self can make a difference — both in our own lives and in the lives of others. Why not start now?

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Mr Reid will carry the cross during Stations of the Cross at Mustard Seed Uniting Church, Ultimo, on Friday April 10 (9552 3667) and will preach at Berry Uniting Church's 125th anniversary service on Sunday April 12 (0410 650 045). **For more information:** contact Stephen Webb, Synod Media Officer, 02 8267 4308 or 0423 259 945.