

18 April 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Why the scars...

At the end of the Gospel of John we read of the post-resurrection encounters that people have with Jesus. In John 20, on the evening of Easter Sunday, Jesus appears, standing among the disciples in the house and he says, "Peace be with you." At a time where they are hiding and fearful, Jesus comes to be with them and to bring peace. During this encounter he shows them his scars - the marks of the nails in his hands and a hole in his side. What they see must be terrifying! It is so unexpected and comes as their first reconnection as a group with their master and teacher. Their teacher, who was crucified, is now alive! I have often wondered why Jesus, after his resurrection in his glorified body, still bore the visible marks of his wounds. After all, scars are often considered to be signs of imperfection, something most of us try to hide. Especially in our contemporary world where we are encouraged to present outward perfection of mind and body. But the scars remind us of God's story. They remind us that the resurrection does not destroy the old creation, but instead reconfigures and renews it. Maybe part of the reason Jesus' resurrected body bore the nail scars is because this reflects who he is, as well as what he has suffered, reminding us of the fullness of the healing and redemption that flows from what he has accomplished on the cross.



The Japanese tradition of Kintsugi is the art of repairing broken pottery pieces with lacquer dusted with gold. A Kintsugi master will take a broken vessel and create a restored piece that makes the broken parts even more visually sophisticated. Kintsugi is built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create a more beautiful and more valuable piece of art. Applying this concept to theology, artist and author Makoto Fujimura suggests that, *"It's through our brokenness that God's grace can shine through, as in the gold that fills fissures in Kintsugi."*

Maybe in light of the scars that Jesus still bears on his resurrected body, we can learn to become more vulnerable and to not be ashamed of the scars that we bear from our journey through life. In so doing, God's grace can shine through the brokenness of our lives. Jesus' scars remind us of the grace that has been offered freely to us through his death and resurrection. A grace that shines through the brokenness of the cross to the resurrection of new life.

Grace and peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church: 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm

Open Church: Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Monday to Fridays 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Upcoming events...

Seven days of Solidarity: 18-25 April 2021

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:


BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

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

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



A Word Of Thanks...

Last week our family safely made the move into the Byron Bay Manse. We are filled with gratitude and thanks for the amazing work that has been done in the past few weeks on the property to prepare it for our arrival. For us, this has been a genuine act of love and support, along with a recognition of the importance of stewarding the resources that God has blessed our church with. Thank you to George, Geoff, David, Corinne, Brian, Mollie, Shirley and Janelle for the team effort in having the house look so fresh and clean. Please keep us in your prayers as we find our new home here. The Doks.

Growing Young

The Growing Young Project has been advertised for a few months now and we all have had the opportunity to participate through the survey. We still have a number of copies of the Growing Young book and would love a few more people to join us in the project. We are now finalising a small group within our congregation who will read this book (like a book club/small group) and then meet fortnightly to discuss the content, eventually developing an approach for our own church. This group will meet in the coming weeks. If you would like to be part of this group please contact Rev Phil. For more details on Growing Young try this link:

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/growing-young/>

Open Church

The Vision Task Group has been meeting recently and have proposed an idea that will see our church buildings opened a little more often. Once a week for two hours, each building will be open and our minister, along with a volunteer, will be present. It is our hope that people might be led to come in for a chat, a cuppa and to pray or spend time in contemplation. Although this is a small step, we are open to God using this in a way that might surprise us and open up new connections with our communities.

Uniting World - Seven Days Of Solidarity

Have you been wondering what the mission army the UCA are involved in? Seven Days of Solidarity is an opportunity in one week (18-25 April) to MEET our NEIGHBOURS, RECEIVE a story each day of the week of Christ at work in a different part of the world; PRAY for the work, and TAKE ACTION in solidarity. These stories will be available on the website <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/7dos/resources>, emailed out to everyone who signs up, as pre-formatted emails you can forward to all Presbytery congregations, and as printed hard copies that you can order from us.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 18 April: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Week of 25 April: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia



Prayer Points:

- Our Vision Task Group as they continue to meet and consider the future for our church.
- Our NSW/ACT Synod meeting which began last Saturday. Be with those who are gathering in a new manner online, as they make decisions concerning the future of our Church.
- The 16th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, the members of the Assembly, those involved in preparations, for the decisions that will be made and for the future of the Uniting Church.
- The Open Church initiative. That God will bring people through the doors of our church buildings and open connections with our community.
- The Dokmanovic family as they settle into the Byron Bay manse and community.

Gathered Worship

Sunday 18th April	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 25th April	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 2nd May	9.30am Byron Bay Communion 5pm Bangalow Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 9th May	5pm Bangalow	- with Pastor Steve 'Molk' Molkentin

Lectionary Readings

18 April	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
25 April	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
2 May	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1
9 May	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17

Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.