

28 March 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Again and Again...

Again and again, we find ourselves considering the central themes of our faith as we enter Holy Week and our Lenten journey draws towards the Easter weekend. Again and again we find ourselves at the entry way to Jerusalem, hearing the crowds shouting their joyous "Hosannas." Again and again we find ourselves at the foot of the cross, at the pit of despair, in the face of death, in the grip of state-sanctioned violence. "Here" is an emotional place. "Here" is grief. "Here" is the reality of sin and brokenness. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we are called to sit in the silence of death, knowing that God is here. And after dwelling there we move to Resurrection Sunday and we are reminded that Easter comes to us, again and again, even if we don't know what to make of God's resurrection ways. Again and again, the sun rises, a new day dawns. And some days, that is enough.



As you engage in this ancient story this Easter, may you be filled with new epiphanies, new questions, new hope, as God's love for all humanity is revealed to us again and again. Please join us for our Easter gatherings across the weekend, as we engage together in these special moments, reflecting upon the good news of the cross and resurrection. May we all be filled with wonder and awe at the amazing love and grace displayed for us all in Christ.

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

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...



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: 6685 1708

<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



Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain

This Lent our theme is: **"Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain."** In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. But we are also reminded in this theme of God's presence with us...again & again. This is so vital for our ongoing faith journey. No matter what may come - God is with us...again & again. Each day of Lent, Rev Phil will be posting resources on our Facebook Page to encourage our reflections on this journey. We have also emailed out a Devotional Booklet and we have some beautifully printed card packs with a daily reflection that are available. There are so many opportunities to engage on the spiritual journey this Lent.



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/>

Vision Task Group

Our Vision Task Group has met twice already to discuss future ministry and mission possibilities and work towards creating a Mission Plan. There have been some great reflections on our current ministries and mission and some wonderful ideas about new possibilities. The group will meet again on Tuesday 30th March at 1pm at the Bangalow Church. If you would like to be part of this group it is not too late, simply contact Rev Phil and he will let you know more details.

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 28 March: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Week of 4 April: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES
Let us PRAY

Prayer Points:

- Those around our state recovering from the devastating effects of the recent severe weather event and flooding. For the DRCN chaplains and all emergency workers supporting people in these disasters and the recovery process.
- Women everywhere in light of the March For Justice last week. May we all work together to forge a gender equal world, celebrating women's achievement, raising awareness against bias and taking action for equality and an end in violence towards women.
- Our Easter gatherings. May they be times of reflection and inspiration as we consider the great themes of our faith again and again.
- Rev Phil and family as they move into the Byron Bay manse after Easter. May they settle quickly and find home there.

Gathered Worship

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 28th March | 5pm Bangalow | Again & Again, We Draw On Courage - Rev Phil |
| Thursday 1st April | 5pm Bangalow | Service Of The Shadows - Rev Phil |
| Sunday 4th April | 6am Cape Byron Lighthouse | Easter Sunrise - Rev Phil |
| Sunday 11th April | 5pm Bangalow | TBC |
| Sunday 18th April | 9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow | - Rev Phil |

Lectionary Readings

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 28 March | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Psalms 31:9-16 | Philippians 2:5-11 | Mark 14:1-15:47 |
| 4 April | Acts 10:34-43 | Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | John 20:1-18 |
| 11 April | Acts 4:32-35 | Psalms 133 | 1 John 1:1-2:2 | John 20:19-31 |
| 18 April | Acts 3:12-19 | Psalms 4 | 1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48 |

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.