

14 March 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Flipping Tables...

In John 2 we read of a remarkable event which takes place in the temple of Jerusalem. The temple was the central place of worship for all Jewish people and Jesus, from the far-off town of Nazareth, enters and makes an impact! What occurs is shocking and could be seen as Jesus inciting a riot. The scene is vividly described in the passage, filled with movement and sound and we can imagine this taking place in our mind's eye.



'Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"'- John 2:15-16

One of the things that jumps out at me in this passage is where Jesus overturns the tables. He flips them over...right there in the middle of this sacred space. In so doing, many believe he was addressing the injustice perpetrated by the sellers. Jesus begins his ministry by showing the way, more than telling about it. There in the temple, Jesus disrupts and overturns the systems of corruption and profiteering that are taking place. Again and again in his ministry, Jesus shows us that his movement is about overturning systems of oppression and injustice.

As a Fair Trade faith community, we actively engage in ethical purchasing, buying Fair Trade products, as one step in addressing the unjust experience of workers around the world. In the past few weeks we have witnessed injustices related to the sexual abuse and mistreatment of women in the media. Closer to home we witness injustice daily in the experience of minority groups and rough sleepers in our community. I wonder what tables of injustice we are being asked to overturn in our lives and in this world. If we are choosing to walk in the way of Jesus this Lent, then maybe part of our calling is flipping tables!

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...

Byron Bay Congregation Special Meeting: following the 9:30am gathering

Service of the Shadows: 5pm Thursday 1 April - Bangalow UCA

Good Friday: 9am Friday 2 April - Mullumbimby UCA

Easter Sunday Sunrise: 6am Sunday 4 April Cape Byron lighthouse

Easter Sunday: 9am Sunday 4 April - Mullumbimby UCA



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
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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. We are asking you to engage in the Growing Young survey which will give us helpful information as we engage in this Synod project. Please complete the short survey by

March 15th. To access the survey please click on:

<https://www.oursurvey.church/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

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 now begin in March as we wait for the survey results. 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 (updated)

Our Vision Task Group met for the first time last week to discuss future ministry and mission possibilities and work towards creating a Mission Plan. A productive discussion was had about the life of our church and possibilities for the future. The group will meet again on Tuesday 16th 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 14 March: Scandinavia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Week of 21 March: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Prayer Points:

- Women everywhere. We especially give thanks for the ways women generously give their time, compassion and care to others. May we all work together to forge a gender equal world, celebrating women's achievement, raising awareness against bias and taking action for equality.
- Australia's response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged care and the work towards crucial reforms.
- The space for people to discern and think creatively about the fresh words and deeds that God is calling the Church to embody.
- An enriching Lenten journey this year. May our theme **"Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain"** help us to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus and grow us as we prepare for Easter.

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Gathered Worship

Sunday 14th March:	5pm Bangalow	Again & Again, God Loves First -Rev Emma Walsh (Guest speaker) with Rev Phil
Sunday 21st March:	9:30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	Again & Again, We Are Reformed - Rev Phil
Sunday 28th March:	5pm Bangalow	Again & Again, We Draw On Courage - Rev Phil

Easter Dates

Thursday 1st April	5pm Bangalow	Service Of The Shadows
Sunday 4th April	6am Cape Byron Lighthouse	Easter Sunrise

We are also invited to join Brunswick Valley Uniting Church for their Easter gatherings:

Friday 2nd April	9am Mullumbimby UCA	Good Friday
Sunday 4th April	9am Mullumbimby UCA	Easter Sunday

Lectionary Readings

14 March	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
21 March	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
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	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18

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.