



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

What comes after Easter...

'Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:21-22)

It was such a special time for our community to join together at three gatherings across the Easter weekend, as we remembered and reflected upon the story at the heart of our faith - the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection. This came to a powerful culmination with our sunrise gathering at Cape Byron Lighthouse, amidst the glory of God's beautiful creation and a special sunrise.

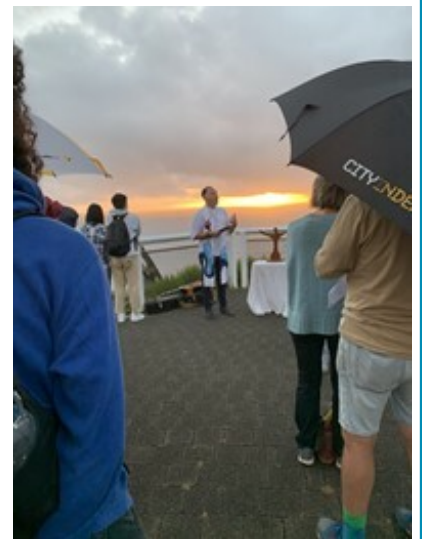
Following on from last weekend we are now in the season of Easter. This season celebrates the resurrection and ascension of Christ, along with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, concluding at Pentecost. In the Gospel of John, Jesus' first encounter with the gathered disciples following the resurrection involves the resurrected Jesus breathing on them. In this breath, much like the Ruach of God at the beginning of creation as described in Genesis, are they being offered God's Spirit as a blessing? Maybe Christ is offering the disciples, not only breath, but life in this encounter. It is an important turning point in their grief, fear and loss. Here they are not only offered life but offered it in a way which requires them to engage in it along with others. They are called and sent to pass the baton on and bless others with life in Christ's fullness.

For us, this is what comes next after Easter this year. It should be what comes next after every Easter. The impetus to engage in life in all its fullness as followers of the resurrected Christ. Jesus empowers and sends his first followers and we too are sent in the same way. Sent to minister in our families and communities. Sent to bring light and life to this world. Sent to announce the good news of Christ and God's love and welcome to all people.

As we consider what comes next this Easter may we choose to hear the call of our resurrected crucified Lord and follow in his way, the way of love.

Blessings to you in this Easter season,

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...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Cuppa & Conversation: Wednesday 10:00am-11.30am @ Bangalow UCA

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: begins in Term 2, 2022

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM): Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

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

Growing Young Group: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

ANZAC Day Dawn Service: Monday 25th April, 5:30am @ Byron Bay War Memorial Gates
(Rev Phil leading prayer)

Phase 3 Minister's Day (Rev Phil): Monday 2nd May @ Ballina

Growing Young: Monday 9th May, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Family Gathering: Sunday 1st May, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Mother's Day Fair Trade Stalls: Thursday 5th May @ Brunswick Heads PS &
Friday 6th May @ Bangalow PS

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



Forest Advocacy Ministry Role Implementation Committee (FAMRIC)

Recently, Rev Phil has joined this committee which is working towards creating a ministry placement for a minister to work in forest advocacy. The trees and creatures of the forests in NSW are in crisis, following logging, the 2019/20 bushfires, the 2022 floods and the escalation of climate change. This is an opportunity to develop a Christian voice and presence in the struggle for forest protection. This proposal, initially led by the Mid North Coast Presbytery, but with a vision to work in partnership with others, is for the establishment of a Forest Advocate ministry role, starting on the Mid North Coast and expanding to the Queensland border in the north and the Hunter River in the south. Rev Phil is offering a voice from the Far North Coast on this committee. If you are interested in supporting this role financially or have any questions please ask Rev Phil.

Family Gatherings Term 2

The planned dates for Term 2 are: 1st May, 29th May, 26th June. Please mark these on your calendar and join us for these creative and interactive gatherings of worship. The first gathering of Term 2 on Sunday May 1st is very soon and we encourage you to invite any families and young people you have connections with to enjoy the gathering with us.

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM) - Every Wednesday 12pm-2pm

As a church we have had a long and positive connection with YWAM Byron Bay for many years. In recent months we have had healthy discussions with YWAM to build a partnership with them in Byron Bay through our church facilities. This has resulted in their first initiative, which is a free community lunch every Wednesday. Please feel welcome to visit any time to encourage their service team and join in the lunch. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please speak to Rev Phil. Although we may not be leading this ministry, it is part of who we are as a church and we are committed to supporting this ministry actively and in prayer.

FairTrade Stall

As a church we have established good relationships with some local primary schools - these are our neighbours who we are seeking to love and serve. One of the outcomes of these relationships is the offer to run Fairtrade Mother's Day Stalls for two local primary schools this year, Brunswick Heads and Bangalow, as we continue to promote the importance of Fairtrade in our region. May we all continue to find ways to share the importance of ethical purchasing as a justice issue of our faith.

Lectionary Readings

24 April	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelations 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
1 May	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelations 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
8 May	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelations 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
15 May	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelations 21:1-6	John 13:31-35

Gathered Worship

Sunday 24th April	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 1st May	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering	- Rev Phil
Sunday 8th May	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 15th May	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 24 April: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Week of 1 May: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Prayer Points:

- All those involved in preparing for the Federal Election, and that those who will stand for election commit to policies that seek flourishing for all.
- True peace and an end to war in Ukraine, and in all places of conflict and violence across the world.
- Let us continue to pray for the long recovery process in the Northern Rivers and all those whose lives were affected through the recent flooding disasters.
- For the YWAM Team as they seek to serve our local community through the Byron Bay Free Feed ministry.

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.