



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

We are an Easter people...



One of the often heard phrases as people gather on Easter Day is the saying "He is risen!" It is often accompanied with the response "He is risen indeed!" In saying this phrase we are summing up one of the core theological ideas of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ is alive and his resurrection brings new life. Across the Easter weekend we hold two key aspects of our faith, the death of Jesus of Nazareth on a Roman cross outside Jerusalem and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the empty tomb. I often engage in each Easter weekend as a journey, where a range of emotions can be experienced, some which we rarely engage in during our weekly worship gatherings or even often in our lives. We journey through the Easter weekend carrying the weighty and poignant story of the events of Christ's passion through Maundy

Thursday and Good Friday. A story of betrayal, rejection, suffering and death. Often, we seek to rush towards the Easter Sunday experience of celebration and resurrection and there is good reason for this! But it is also enriching to sit with the in-between experience of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This is a time of reflection and loss, of waiting and grieving. It is a time when all hope can seem fleeting, if not lost. After all that would have been the experience of the followers of Jesus on that first Easter weekend, not knowing the enormity of what was about to unfold. It also enables us to engage with the real life experiences of suffering, grief and loss that effect us all and for some that will be their experience this Easter.

This year more than ever, as we continue to walk and live in the aftermath of the flooding disasters across the Northern Rivers the circumstances of our region and our neighbourhood, reflect this Easter narrative. Our communities have gone through an experience of 'death' and there is much heaviness, loss, waiting and grief present amongst us. There is also a sense of hope that is present and growing. We see this in the amazing response of love and support that has been such a beautiful part of this whole situation. Our communities are waiting for new life to come, for resurrection to occur. We pray that this will be the case.

And so our calling as those who proclaim and reflect on the phrase, "He is risen," is to be people of hope - an Easter people. We are people who seek to follow the way of Christ, which is the way of the cross. But we also know that this path leads to resurrection and new life.

May we walk as Easter people in the days ahead, as we seek to bring hope and new life to our own lives and to our communities. May we walk the way of love that has been so clearly demonstrated for us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All of which we reflect upon in this season of Easter.

Grace and peace to you, 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: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm
begins in Term 2, 2022

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...

Growing Young: Monday 11 April, 3pm @Bangalow UCA

Fair Trade Stall: Sunday 10th April 9.30am Byron Bay & 5pm Bangalow
(following our gatherings)

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



Easter Gatherings 2022

Thursday 14th April 5pm @ Bangalow UCA - Service of The Shadows

Friday 15th April 9:30am @ Byron Bay UCA - Good Friday Gathering

Sunday 17th April 6:00am @ Cape Byron Lighthouse - Easter Sunday Gathering

Family Gatherings Term 2

For those who have attended our new Family Gatherings at Bangalow in Term 1 you will appreciate the planning and creativity that has gone into crafting these connection points for families and young people. The Growing Young Group has met fortnightly to continue to grow our vision for the future as we seek to grow young and they have spent time planning these gatherings. 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.

Open Church / Cuppa & Conversation

Open Church is now running at Byron Bay, each Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am. Rev Phil is there each Tuesday and available for people to stop by for a cuppa and a chat and to connect with people in our community.

Cuppa & Conversation has also been running each Wednesday from 10am-11:30am at Bangalow. This is an opportunity to join a small group who spend time in conversation around matters of faith. We have recently started a focus on prayer and would love people to join us each week as we continue to consider prayer.

FairTrade Stall

As part of our journey with our Lenten theme: "**A Fair Trade Lent,**" we will be holding a small Fairtrade Stall following both worship gatherings on Sunday 10th April (Palm Sunday). Come prepared to buy some FairTrade items for your own use or for gifts.

Lectionary Readings

10 April	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 19:28-40 P 19-29
17 April	Acts 10:34-43 Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 4-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
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

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UNITING CHURCH

EASTER GATHERINGS 2022

HE IS
RISEN

ALL ARE WELCOME

Thursday 14th April, 5pm: Service of the Shadows - Bangalow UCA, Station St

Friday 15th April, 9:30am: Good Friday - Byron Bay UCA, Carlyle St

Sunday 17th April, 6am: Easter Sunrise - Cape Byron Lighthouse



Gathered Worship

Sunday 24th April	9.30am Byron Bay - Growing Young Reflections 5pm Bangalow - Growing Young Reflections	- 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	- Rev Phil

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 10 April: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Week of 17 April: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Prayer Points:

- The ongoing recovery process in the Northern Rivers. Bring peace to those faced with a long path ahead to recovery and all those supporting them. May we be open to helping, encouraging and loving those who are struggling in these days and in the days ahead.
- As our journey through this Lent season draws to a close, may we continue to reflect upon the ministry of Jesus and may we be challenged as we engage in our theme: **"A Fair Trade Lent"** in meaningful and practical ways into the future.
- Our Easter Gatherings. May they be a time for us to gather and reflect upon the core elements of our faith, as we engage with the Easter story of Christ's death on a cross and resurrection. May we be refreshed in our hope, and walk in the way of love demonstrated by Jesus Christ for us and this world.

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.