



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

God hears the cry of the people...

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey..." - Exodus 3:7-8

These words come from a passage in Exodus when God speaks to Moses from the burning bush. One strong theme of this interaction is that God has heard the cry of the people. These were the people who had been called by God, but now after many years they are miserable and suffering in oppressive slavery in the land of Egypt. But God had heard the cry of these people and is about to use Moses to lead them to freedom.

The idea that God hears, was an important theme for the Israelites in the Old Testament. God is a God who hears the cry of the oppressed. God has a heart for those who are marginalised, outcast and poorly treated. It is clear in the ministry of Jesus that he too had a heart for those who were marginalised, outcast and poorly treated in society. So today, we too should have a heart for people experiencing difficulty and oppression.

What could this mean for us today in light of our **A Fair Trade Lent** theme and our experience in our contemporary world. Well, we acknowledge that God still hears the voices of those who are in slavery across the world in our times. Maybe it surprises you to hear that it is estimated that 46 million people across 167 countries are currently in slavery - today in 2022!! In the cocoa industry alone it is recognised that 1.48 million children are involved in hazardous work, so that we in the comfort of our lounge rooms in the Western World can eat chocolate! This has to change...it is not fair! And so I want you today to wonder with me: What would slaves today be crying out for?

In Exodus God heard the cry of His people. Maybe the question for us to consider is:

Do we hear the cry of those in slavery today and what steps are we taking to respond to that cry? The Australian Modern Slavery Act is designed to address slavery which exists in the supply chains of many of the products which appear in retail outlets in Australia. We can start by becoming more aware of this. We could also look at how we can take action through organisations such as *Be Slavery Free*. And of course we can continue to review our own purchasing practices, seeking to buy fair trade and ethically sourced products. This is a faith issue for us to explore as we seek to love our neighbours and engage in justice in our world, so that God's kingdom can be seen and experienced here on earth as it is in heaven. The following is a prayer written by Fairtrade Advocate and friend of our congregation, Rev John Martin:

Listening God,
You heard the cry of your people in slavery in Egypt.
You hear the cries of those in slavery and child workers in the world today.
Help us to hear those cries.
Give us the courage and wisdom to act.
May our governments and those of nations around the world adopt
practices that support workers around the world and bring an end to
slavery in our days.
Amen.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil



custodians of this place.
waterways upon which we live

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original
We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and
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 28th March, 3pm @Bangalow UCA

Easter Crafternoon: Tuesday 5th April, 3.15-5pm @ 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



Harvest Festival - Thanks

We are part of an amazing community! Our long-awaited Harvest Festival was a magnificent event last Sunday night. From the fun and family-friendly interactive worship, to the delicious catered meal by Brian and Corinne Nash to the entertaining harvest auction, there was so much to enjoy. And to top it off, we were able to raise over \$4000 for flood recovery in our local region that has been hit so hard by the flooding disaster. We are a community making a difference!

Sewing Group - Thank You

If you have been in the Byron Bay Church building in the last fortnight you will have noticed the wonderful new ceiling fans and extra lighting that are freshly installed. The Monday Sewing Group generously donated a large amount of money to cover the costs of these new additions and as can be seen and felt it is most welcome. So on behalf of the church, we would like to show our appreciation to the Sewing Group for this generosity and the improvements it has made to the building space.

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. Last week we started a focus on prayer and would love people to join us each week as we continue with this focus.

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.

Easter Crafternoon - Tuesday 5th April 3.15pm-5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Our next Crafternoon with an Easter focus is approaching quickly, on Tuesday 5th April. If you know any primary school aged children in the area please pass on the details to them and their family.

Lectionary Readings

27 March	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
3 April	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
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

Gathered Worship

Sunday 27th March	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 3rd April	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 10th April	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering	- Rev Phil

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



ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 13 March: Scandinavia: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Week of 20 March: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Prayer Points:

- Chaplains of all faiths working in crisis and disaster-hit communities, providing support and meeting trauma and chaos with care and compassion. Especially the DRCN Chaplains (John Purssey & Rev Phil amongst others) serving in our own community and region.
- The 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.
- Our journey through this Lent season. May it be a time for us 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.

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

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.