



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches



## Easter Week Readings

### Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

OR Hebrews 4:14-16: 5:7-9

John 18:1 - 19:42

### Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-45

OR Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3: 1-4

John 20: 1-18 OR

Matthew 28:1-10

## SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

We are sad to say that all our churches are closed due to COVID 19 restrictions. However we continue to support each other and worship together is available via video services on the web site each week.

[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

Our regular Service times when we are open again:

Anglesea	9am
Airey's Inlet	10.30am
Torquay	9.30am
Bellbrae	11.00am

5th April 2020

**Minister:** Rev. Suzie Castle

On Leave: Saturday, Monday & Wednesday

All other days:

**M: 0421 023 197**

**E: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)**

Check our webpage regularly for past newsletters and future events.

[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

**NOTE:** this newsletter will be delivered by hand for those without email addresses.

## Palm Sunday

### OUR LECTIONARY READINGS

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalm 51: 9-16

Philemon 2: 5-11

Matthew 26:14 to 27:66 OR Matthew 27: 11-54

*"Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness in the fruitful field...  
My people will live in peaceful homes, in secure dwellings and quiet resting places."  
Isaiah 32:16-18*

We have come to the end of Lent in a peculiar way given the changes in our lives brought on by COVID19. The introduction to our Uniting World's **Lent Event** coped with various interruptions but the bible study group has met each week and it has provided a time of sharing and exploring scripture, peace making, and our own lives.

If you are looking for ways to know more about or engage in our wider Uniting Church, there is much on the website at this link: <https://fundraise.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/home>

I have found the content and stories relevant and comforting. It reminds us not to forget others at this time while celebrating the wonderful way Jesus has been working in lives around the world. Ideas to live simply, pray for others and beat poverty seems pertinent to us here as some friends and family struggle with job losses and isolation.

In this time of give and take, remember to bring Christ's light to others.

Peace be with you  
Rev Suzie Castle  
Minister of the Word



## DIARY DATES : April 2020

MAUNDY THURSDAY 9th April

GOOD FRIDAY 10th April

EASTER SUNDAY 12th APRIL

All these services will be available  
on our website:

[surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

Victorian School Holidays: Tuesday 24th March to Mon 13th April.

## Important Notice about Church Offerings

Now that we are not able to attend Worship in person each week, we need to find a way for congregation members and others to contribute to the vital upkeep of our Linked Congregations, and our financial commitment for the payment of our Minister, Suzie,

We have opened a new National Australia Bank Account to which you can contribute, in person at any NAB bank, or through online banking. The details of the account are:

Surf Coast Uniting Church Congregation  
Deposits  
BSB: 083-929  
Account Number 93-009-8403

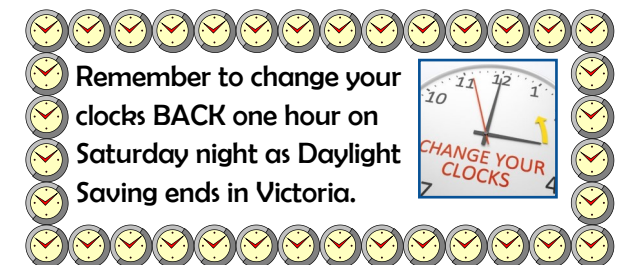
We ask that deposits to this account are identified with the congregation postcode and a two letter abbreviation as follows:

Aireys Inlet: 3231 AI  
Bellbrae: 3228 BB  
Torquay: 3228 TQ

Congregation members who already contribute through Direct Debits can continue to use those. Anyone who would prefer to set up a Direct Debit using a paper form, or who would like any other information, should contact their Church Council Treasurer:

Aireys Inlet: Noni Johnson or Marilyn Wendt  
Bellbrae: John Stephens  
Torquay: Robyn Harper

Stay safe in this challenging time.  
*Robin Dennis,*  
Treasurer, Surf Coast Linked Congregations



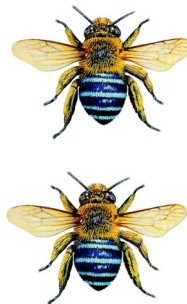
## Congregational Housekeeping Notes:

1. Please continue to support UNITING with donations of food and goods. You can deliver to Harpers doorstep at 53 Cowrie Road.
2. Position vacant soon: an early note that Robin Dennis will be concluding his term as Treasurer with the Surf Coast Linked Congregations Council this year and is looking for a replacement to train. If you think this might be you. Please contact Rosemary Thompson.

Our **Knitting Ministries** continue in private homes during COVID19. Marilyn Wendt (0427 750 369) has shawls and cot blankets which have been blessed by Suzie for those in need.

Jan Hale (0400 869 660) can arrange to have Trauma Teddies completed with the appropriate signage for delivery . **Do Keep Crafting!**

Bees and white butterflies  
among my lavender  
Blissfully unaware  
of the coronavirus scare  
Bustling, buzzing workers  
Busy making honey  
stocking up for winter  
Bless them.



*A poem by R. Purdey*



**PAT** (Plodding Along Technology) **Group** is open to anyone with techie questions, nothing too small or silly. Call Jane Skelton 0400190580, Alan Harper 0417563260 or Rev. Suzie Castle (Apple queries only).

EACH WEEK WE LIST MEMBERS FROM OUR COMBINED CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CARE (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)

TORQUAY: June ANGUS	TORQUAY: Ian ASHWORTH
TORQUAY: Gary & Tracy BANKS, Ellie & James	TORQUAY: Betty & Keith BANKS (@ ELOUERA)



**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. [aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com)

**Anglesea:** Trinity Uniting Church, Murch Crescent, Anglesea

**Bellbrae:** Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

**Torquay:** Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

**BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM :** Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

**USUAL OPERATING HOURS:** Thursday & Friday 10am to 4pm . **SORTING DAY:** Tuesday 1 to 4pm

**NOTE: All our churches and Op Shop are currently closed as per COVID 19 restrictions**

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm

## An updates from Rev Suzie Castle

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear friends, We are all doing well staying at home to flatten the curve and keep safe. This of course comes with challenges and opportunities. I know the pastoral carers have been restructuring systems ensuring everyone is looked after through phone calls as needed.

### How are we keeping our community together?

The worship service in hardcopy will be distributed each week by a team of 3 people. They drop off to letter boxes so you can stay connected and nourished. A weekly pre-recorded worship service is available on our You Tube channel every Sunday from 10:00am. Find this at <https://surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au>. If you have any problems please call for help. If you are not able to view the service online via our web-site then let me know. On our Surf Coast Uniting Church Facebook page, is a 4 day devotion on the Lord's prayer. I hope these help as I have tried to keep things simple and easy to access.

### This coming Holy Week

There will be a daily devotion on the Major Prophets on the [Facebook](#) page. I think we can find encouragement in our faith and community looking towards Israel's exile during this time when we are also scattered.

**Palm/Passion Sunday** service will be online this Sunday from 10:00am.

**Tenebrae** service will be online on Thursday night at 7:30pm.

**Good Friday** service will be online from 10:00am.

**Easter Sunday** service will be online from 10:00am.

There is no Holy Communion at this time which is difficult for many I know.

I realise the challenges many face struggling with limited or no internet access or knowledge. We are offering phone help to anyone with technology questions. It's aimed at the older generation and we've called it **PAT** (Plodding Along Technology) because it's retired folk helping older folk at a pace that suits. But anyone can contact us and no question is silly or too small. The goal is to keep you connected with family and friends. We can answer those Zoom questions or even how to like the Facebook page. Message or call any of us for assistance. Alan Harper, Jane Skelton or Suzie Castle (Apple products mostly).

**Grocery drop off:** If you are self isolating and need any items please let me or your pastoral carer know and we will help.

This past week I have had a chest infection that laid me low. I am pleased to say I am now recovering well. It did however, affect my voice causing me to rest it so I could preach last Sunday. I had a list of people I had planned to call for a chat so I will catch this up next week.

It's a peculiar time in the life of the church. I've heard a few people question if the Corona virus is one of the seven plagues mentioned in Revelation. I possibly read or understand Revelation differently to those asking the question and so my thoughts are that it's not. In the book the 7 plagues indicate the completion of God's wrath directed towards those who belong to the kingdom of the Antichrist. COVID19 doesn't discriminate between people or faith. The other understanding I have is that Revelation names God as the source of the plague. But we now know that coronaviruses are transmitted from animals to humans. The prediction, rather than coming from God, has been coming from scientists for many years. In Matthew 24 Jesus speaks to the concerns of end times (or eschatology) and declares no one will know when that is, but the Father. Of course I look forward like anyone to the new world Jesus promised us, but I don't believe it's today. In the meantime we remember God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth who humbled himself, healed the outcasts, made friends with the lonely, was made vulnerable and died for us. He gave us his Spirit to gather, to heal us and to nurture us. My friends we are blessed so let's continue to be a blessing.

Stay safe precious people.

*Peace Be With You, Rev Suzie Castle*

Minister of the Word

Surfcoast Uniting Church Linked Congregations

Anglesea, Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae, Torquay

