



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches



## Lectionary Readings

### **EASTER 3: April 26th 2020**

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1: 17-23  
Luke 24: 13-35

### **EASTER 4: May 3rd 2020**

Acts 2: 42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2: 19-25  
John 10: 1-10

## SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

Worship together is available via video services on the web site each week.

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

### 10am ANZAC Service

Saturday 25th April

### 10am Sunday Service

3rd May : Communion Service.

**26th April 2020**

### **Minister: Rev. Suzie Castle**

Suzie is on sick leave all this week. Please contact your congregation leader for assistance if needed.

**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.**

### Planning Ahead:

On Sunday, May 3, we share together Holy Communion in our online worship service.

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread and a cup of juice or wine perhaps grape or cranberry with or without alcohol. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or person. Perhaps light a candle or place a flower or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you all for your preparation for this special service.

The April 2020 CROSSLIGHT is available. If you would like a copy delivered to you or wish to pick up a copy – please ring Robyn Harper 0407 829 926.

Our members who have the Newsletter home-delivered will receive a copy this week.

A digital copy is available on the web site:

<https://crosslight.org.au/>



I was reminded this week of the impact war had on me as a child. Just at the same time I learnt there had been a war in Vietnam we had a few tonnes of wooden pallets delivered to the farm and piled up 3 metres high and 6 metres wide. I had learnt about the deaths of so many soldiers and that many had been subjected to torture. I learnt about the rejection the men and women faced when they returned home.

I wanted to save my brothers from such horror so I designed a hide out in those pallets to stash the boys so nobody could take them away.

Now in Australia we have refugees who have fled their own war ravaged land to seek peace in ours. The world groans under the weighty numbers of those seeking asylum from the brutality of war

The heartbreak of war is the very reason we must remember all our fallen, injured and returned defence force. I have a friend who lost her son, an Australian soldier, 10 years ago to war. War becomes personal when this happens.

In WW2 Dietrich Bonhoeffer blessed a co-conspirator heading to assassinate Adolf Hitler with scripture: "No greater love has a man than to lay down his life for his friends". As hard as it is to accept the violence and mayhem and death that comes of wars, Bonhoeffer's writing illustrates the lengths people will go to fight for what is right and to put an end to what is wrong.

Rev Iris Garden is a Uniting Church minister, writer and lupus sufferer. She writes: "We don't love our neighbours as ourselves. We don't forgive those who sin against us. We don't love and pray for our enemies. We resent, we fear, we hate, and we fight. It's part of who we are.

*The answer to humanity's failing is Jesus.*

*Where we fail to love our neighbours, he loves us no matter who or what we are.*

*Where we fail to forgive, he has gone to the cross to forgive our sins.*

*Where we have failed to pray for our enemies, he prays constantly at God's right hand for us, the very people who have hurt him and let him down.*

*Where we resent, fear, hate and fight, Jesus answers with love.*

This ANZAC weekend if you are looking for a good book to read, I commend Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* to you.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Suzie Castle. Minister of the Word.

Our vulnerable neighbours are needing assistance. Please continue to support UNITING with donations of food and goods. UNITING have requested: RICE, TUNA, PASTA, & PASTA SAUCE.

You can deliver to Robyn & Alan Harper's doorstep at 53 Cowrie Road, Torquay.



## Communications Update:

<https://surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/surfcoastunitingchurch/>



We use facebook and our website to talk to all our communities on the surfcoast. You are encouraged to check updates on the website and of course, to 'friend' us and follow on facebook if that suits you.

Suzie is interested in sharing some of the people stories that make our churches so unique, friendly and faithful and would love to hear from you. If you are open to having your photo taken or to sharing some good news story about how you are managing COVID19 restrictions please email Suzie and chat about this opportunity.

The Worship team is also putting together various resources for our family in aged care. Suzie and Jane Skelton are creating a short video of bible and worship readings which can be easily shared with those in care. Call or text Suzie if you know someone who would like to connect to this resource, or if you would like to take part.



Check out [www.brucewatsonmusic.com](http://www.brucewatsonmusic.com) for a song a day from Bruce Watson. Bruce is a major Australian songwriter and performer in the folk tradition. Based in Melbourne, he performs around Australia at festivals, clubs and other venues. His web site comes highly recommended by various congregation members.



## Your Church Offering...

A big **THANK YOU** to all our regular givers. Your offering is helping keep all our bills paid each week. These include Suzie's stipend and our energy and cleaning bills.

We have opened a new National Australia Bank Account to which you can contribute, in person at any NAB bank, or through online banking.

### Surf Coast Uniting Church Congregation Deposits

BSB: 083-929

Account Number 93-009-8403

Please identify your deposit with these tags:

**Aireys Inlet:** 3231 AI

**Bellbrae:** 3228 BB

**Torquay:** 3228 TQ

Contact your local congregation Treasurer for information about using our new account **OR** direct debit OR to drop off your offering envelope.

**Aireys Inlet:** Noni Johnson / Marilyn Wendt

**Bellbrae:** John Stephens

**Torquay:** Robyn Harper

Stay safe in this challenging time.

*Robin Dennis,*

Treasurer, Surf Coast Linked Congregations

## Community Messages:

**Plan ahead** to support Op-shops, markets and church fete's when we are free to gather again. Start potting up those cuttings, making jam and sewing saleable items.

The **Book Shop @ Bellbrae** is open by appointment only. Browsers are welcome one by one and leave the money on the table. Call Carleen on 0415 173 794

Remember to keep saving your **STAMPS!**



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

Prayers this week are offered for our community, our nurses, doctors, drivers and retail workers. Our teachers, and rubbish collectors, our cleaners and aged care workers. We pray for ministers of the word in all faiths as they create a safe and purposeful environment for their people. We pray for our neighbours, across the fence, via text, or email. We pray for our families, close by and far away. We love them, we grieve our distance even though we understand it.



**Aireys Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Aireys 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:** Thurs & Fri 10am to 4pm. Sat 10am to 1pm. **SORTING DAY:** Tuesday 1 to 4pm

**NOTE: All our churches & the OPshop 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