

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :

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(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner: 0427 701 276

Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



Sunday 2nd April 2023

*We acknowledge that we meet and worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present.*

Find out more at [www.wadawurrung.org.au](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au).

## Palm Sunday – entrance into Jerusalem: All our churches have services this Sunday to share

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when Christians commemorate Jesus' 'triumphal entry' into Jerusalem where the Gospels tell us he was greeted with crowds waving palm branches and crying 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' (Mark 11:9-10). (Ironically, these same voices that greet Jesus as Messiah and King will be the same voices that shout 'Crucify him!' just a few short days later on Good Friday.) Traditionally, worshipping Christians may receive palm branches or palm crosses on Palm Sunday as a tangible sign of Jesus' 'triumphal entry' into Jerusalem. And in some churches, Palm Sunday is also known as the Sunday of the Passion, when one of the Gospel passion narratives is read aloud during the liturgy.

## Holy Wednesday – into the darkness: Share with us at a Taizé Service at Bellbrae 7pm

Holy Week continues in many Christian traditions on 'Holy Wednesday' (known as 'Spy Wednesday' in earlier times). Holy Wednesday is often marked with a service of Tenebrae (Latin for 'darkness' or 'shadows'), with the hearing of appropriate psalms and other readings while candles on a candelabrum (the 'Tenebrae hearse') are gradually extinguished, creating the sense of growing darkness. This darkness symbolises the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples, and anticipates the anguish and tragedy of Good Friday later on in Holy Week. What follows then are the 'Triduum' of Holy Week – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

## Maundy Thursday – the Last Supper: Share with us at 7.30pm at Torquay

Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper that Jesus shares with his disciples, his betrayal by his disciple Judas Iscariot, and his arrest at the Garden of Gethsemane. Often Maundy Thursday services will include an act of foot washing, which commemorates Jesus washing the feet of his disciples as an act of service on the night of his arrest (John 13:1-20). Maundy Thursday reminds participants of the 'new commandment' (*mandatum* in Latin) that Jesus gave his disciples *to love one another as he has loved them* (John 15:12) – a love that is most readily seen in Jesus willingly giving up his life on the cross on Good Friday.

## Good Friday – Jesus' agony on the cross: Share our services at Aireys & Torquay. Followed by fellowship together over Hot Cross Buns.

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate, his sentence of death, his torture, and his crucifixion and burial. It is called 'good' Friday in the obsolete sense of the word 'good' – connoting something 'holy' or 'pious' ('Holy Friday'), which is striking as 'Good Friday' is the most somber day for Christians, when the agony, death and burial of Jesus is remembered. For many Christians, Good Friday is a day of fasting, with the faithful attending a church service where they will meditate on and venerate the cross of Christ.

### ***Our Easter Week Services:***

Sunday 2nd April: **Palm Sunday**  
Aireys Inlet @ 9.30am, Bellbrae @ 11am, Torquay @ 9.30am.

Wednesday 5th April: **Bellbrae Taizé Service at 7pm**

Thursday 6th April: **Service at Elouera Aged Care at 2.15pm, helpers welcome**

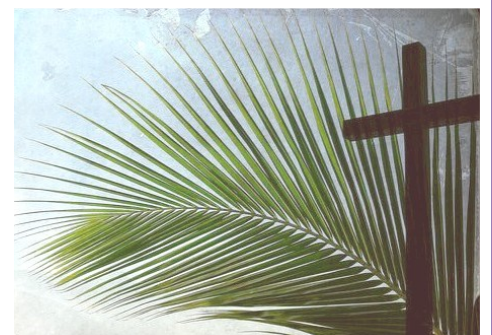
Thursday 6th April: **Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm at Torquay**

Friday 7th April: **Good Friday Service for Bellbrae & Torquay at Anderson Street Church at 9.30am**

**Hot Cross Buns** @ Genats following the service. 8 Gogoll Crescent, Torquay. *All welcome: people & dogs*

Sunday 9th April: **Ecumenical Dawn Service at Cosy Corner** followed by snack breakfast with the gathered. **6.30am**

Sunday 9th April: **Easter Day:** Aireys Inlet @ 9.30am, Bellbrae @ 11am, Torquay @ 9.30am.



**Please Note that on Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Risk days the church services on the Surf Coast may be cancelled, and the Op Shop closed.**

### Sunday April 2nd: Palm Sunday

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas  
Bellbrae @ 11am Rev Bob Thomas  
*Holy Communion at AI and BB*  
Torquay @ 9.30am Robert Packett



### Sunday April 9th: Easter Sunday

Rev Peter Greenwood is taking services at  
BB & AI with Holy Communion (TBC)  
  
Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am  
Bellbrae @ 11am  
Torquay @ 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas

**NOTE: All our video sermons are available on the Surfcoast website:**  
**[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)**

### Surfcoast Uniting Events:

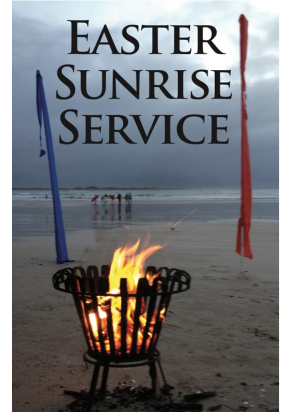
#### Thursday morning Coffee: at Bomboras in Torquay from 10.30am

**Wed 5th April:** We are meeting at Oak Tree Place for a **Lavender** stripping and bagging workshop. Ro Thompson has kindly donated heaps of lavender for sale at our next Trading Table. From 2.00pm.

**Easter Week**— check out the service details on the front page and plan to attend your Easter worship. Also, join our *fellowship time* with all congregations for *Hot Cross Buns at the Genats* on Good Friday after the 9.30am service.

**Sunday 9th April:** Everyone is welcome to the Ecumenical Dawn Service on Easter Day 6.30am on the beach at Cosy Corner, Torquay Beach. Breakfast snacks afterwards.

**Tuesday 25th April at 2pm**—BOOK CLUB is back for Autumn. Did we say Crime & Punishment as the dark theme this time? At OTP. BYO book and comments to share. Everyone welcome. Contact Tricia on 0419 3400656



Remember, we are still collecting for UNITING to support families and individuals in our area with food and toiletries, toys and clothes.

New things please, small packages of food often preferred. Staples, coffee, tea, pasta, rice, tinned vegetables, chocolate, are always needed. *Thank you.*

Turn your clocks **BACK** on Saturday night for an extra hour of snoozing.



NOTE: Public Holidays - on Easter Monday and ANZAC Day, Oak Tree Place will be operating as usual. OPSHOP will be open on Easter Saturday.

#### Out & About: Local Dates for your Diary.

**Sunday 2nd April:** Daylight Saving ends for Victoria

**Sunday 9th April:** Airey's Inlet Easter Market

**From the 4th April to the 14th:** Bells Beach Surf Pro Classic The World Surf League is returning to Bells Beach, for the 60th Anniversary of the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach.

**Saturday 20th May @ Oak Tree Place**—a special fundraiser concert featuring the *Surfside Singers* who meet every Tuesday at OTP. More details next month, but add it to your calendar NOW!

AND—the Surfcoast Arts Trail is coming again in 2023. Oak Tree Place is registered as a location, so set aside **Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th August** to be involved and bring the family and friends. Check [w. www.surfcoastartstrail.com.au](http://www.surfcoastartstrail.com.au) for all details.



#### Matthew 7:13-14

**13 "Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it.**  
**14 For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."**

#### Prayer Points for this week ahead:

- For those we know are in pain, we pray for rest and mending.
- For all those involved in our Easter Week services and activities. We pray for guidance to share love, forgiveness and the promise of Easter.
- For visitors to the surf coast, we pray for safe holidays and peaceful family time.



Thanks to all who are honoring their financial pledges and those who give what they are able, so we may continue to worship and serve our communities. Gifts are valued in electronic or paper format.

**Surfcoast Uniting Church.**

**NAB : BSB: 083-929 & Acc No: 93-009-8403. ADD notes:**  
**Aireys AI3231; Bellbrae BB3228; Torquay TQ 3228**

OUR CHURCHES  
ON THE SURF-  
COAST

**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's  
**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  
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.