

# 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 9th 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).*



## Good Friday reflection:

We come here today to remember a man.

A man who had dreams, who had those dreams shattered,  
who needed time to think and pray,  
who knew he was likely to die for what he believed...

A man of extraordinary religious insight. A man who did die - a cruel death.

On this day we look at the cross, and we remember...the betrayal of friendship and its consequences,  
the casual cruelty of Roman authority and execution, and how unreliable others proved to be in a crisis.

On this day may we also remember that religious bigotry, cruelty and unreliability  
are still a part of our everyday lives.

On this day, then, may we learn some new precepts for living...

do not avoid contact with suffering, or close your eyes before suffering;

do not maintain anger or hatred;

do not say untruthful things for the sake of personal interest, or to impress people;

do not live with a vocation that is harmful to humans and nature.

On this day we remember.

## EASTER SUNDAY.... Meditation - "A Poem for Easter" By R. Preston Price.

Like a blade of grass pushing up stubbornly through the footpath.

Like the butterfly emerging from the tomb-like chrysalis.

But much more.

Like the seed after years of dormant death sending up a sprout.

Like the brown bulb breaking forth from brown earth into brilliant colour.

But much more.

Like brilliant daybreak after a stormy, darkened night.

Like a rainbow mystically appearing amidst the rain.

But much more.

Like a patient making an unexpected, unpredicted turn for health.

Like the pine cone opening to spread seed only after touched by fiery death.

But much more.

Like a beautiful vase emerging from a lump of clay in the potter's hands.

Like a hidden spring burbling forth in the middle of a barren desert. But much more.

So, it comes. Nothing else like it.

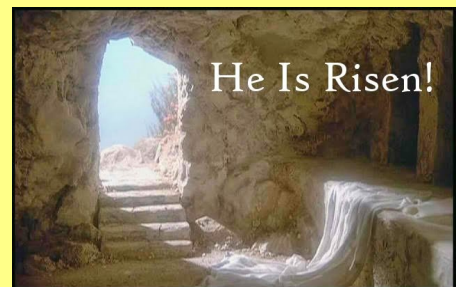
No image adequate. No simile. No metaphor.

Unable to talk about it but inadequately,

We celebrate this great, real mystery that

Neither language nor imagination can encompass. **Easter!**

Now, in silence, allow the dead parts of yourself to join Jesus in walking from the grave.



**Sunday April 9th: Easter Sunday****Sunday April 16th:**

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Peter Greenwood  
 Bellbrae @ 11am Rev Peter Greenwood  
 Torquay @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas  
 All services will celebrate Holy Communion.

Aireys Inlet 9:30 am Rev Bob Thomas  
 Bellbrae 11:00 am Rev Bob Thomas  
 Torquay: 9:30am Sharing Rev Bob via video.

**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:**

**Thursdays at 5pm at Torquay:** Choir practice is beginning again. All welcome to come and join in the singing.

**Thursday morning Coffee: at Bomboras in Torquay from 10.00am next Thursday (13th) as having breakfast too!!**

**Wednesday April 12th @ 2:00pm:** Another Lavender bag making day at OTP. 30 bags made this week and another batch of Lavender to prepare. All welcome.

**Sunday April 30th:** Our Combined service will be held at Aireys Inlet Church, led by Rev. Mat Harry. Please note this is at St Aidan's Anglican Church **at 10:00am**. Mat works at the VICTAS Synod as the New & Renewing Communities Catalyst.

**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

**Our Easter Week Services:**

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 @ 6.30am**, followed by snack breakfast of muffins and Easter eggs for those gathered. **Dress warmly as it will be a chilly 11 degrees but will feel like 4!!**

UNITING are in need of Full cream long life milk, Spreads, jams, Cereals, Canned soups and canned veggies. Please give as you are able.

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

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

**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 [www.surfcoastartstrail.com.au](http://www.surfcoastartstrail.com.au) for all details.

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

**Giving Hope on the Coast – Aireys Inlet Uniting Outreach**

A huge thank you goes to the Torquay Church Council for their generous support of our project to give a fresh start to a refugee family by resettling them on the Surf Coast. This contribution of \$5,000 from the Wiggans bequest will be used to help support the family in their first year in Australia. The Link council have also agreed to give the remaining funds from the Surf Coast Salvado bequest to CRISP.

We have set a target of \$30,000 and are well on the way to achieving this. If you would like to make a personal contribution to our fundraising, the details for a bank transfer are as follows:

Account name: Surf Coast Uniting Church  
 BSB: 083-929  
 Account: 20-987-6337

**Please use the reference CRISP and add some identifying information.**



We are very excited to hear the news that the Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees (AIRAR) - the other sponsor group in Aireys Inlet - are preparing to receive a family.

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.