

19 APRIL 2020 - TODAY'S SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

7.30AM— NO SERVICE—ONLINE ONLY AT 9.00AM

9.00AM—NO SERVICE—ONLINE ONLY

ST JOHN  
THE BAPTIST  
EST. 1888  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

<b>THURSDAY</b>	23	Mah-jong	No Mah-jong until further notice
<b>FRIDAY</b>	24	Eucharist	Suspended
<b>SATURDAY</b>	25	Anzac Day	Lest We Forget
<b>SUNDAY</b>	26	9.00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom

**ALL WORSHIP SERVICES SUSPENDED**

The Archbishop has instructed (Ad Clerum dated 20 March 2020) that all public worship services are to be suspended until further notice, effective from Monday 23rd March. There will be no events in the church or Hall until further notice.

We will continue to issue Pew Bulletins via email. Please read the notices inside this Bulletin carefully.

**Locum: The Reverend Jamee-Lee Callard**

**(Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)**

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To arrange direct debit for your regular givings, please use the account details:

BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573. Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*1 Peter 1.3*

### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt: May we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### 1ST READING: ACTS 2.14A,22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

### 2ND READING: 1 PETER 1.1-12

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

*(continued next page)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

### **GOSPEL : JOHN 20.19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## Gospel Reflection

Poor Thomas gets a bad rap for his role as a doubter. Although only a few weeks ago we recognized his faithfulness when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, now I wonder how ready we are to point the finger at him and declare ‘Ye of little faith’, while imagining that we would have been any different in the circumstances. I have often heard doubt described as an unhealthy practice for a Christian living, but maybe it’s not doubt that stinks, but rather our attitude towards it... Let’s explore a little further...

Jesus statement, shared after Thomas had physically felt the wounds of Christ and came to belief, is one that lingers in our traditions and speaks to the very heart of living with faith, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet come to believe.” Often this phrase is expressed as “Seeing isn’t believing, believing is seeing.”

This raises the question: How can we live true to our need to understand, test and grasp truth while also being custodians of a Gospel which is beyond our understanding, cannot be tested or grasped and calls us to share this with others?

Without this interaction between Thomas and Christ, the emphatic statement, testifying to Jesus identity and risen nature would not have occurred as a scriptural encouragement for us. So in a sense, does successfully witnessing to the Gospel involve as living with doubt as Thomas showed in this text?

Perhaps questions are the answers—it is only in dialogue, conversation and raising doubts that we are able to come to faith filled experiences which help to draw us closer to belief.

I am always struck by the beauty of paradox in our Scriptures. Those who have caught a small glimpse of the truth are called to share that glimpse with others in such a way that they can be drawn into their own experience of awe at the amazing Love of God in the life of Jesus Christ. Surely then the doubts that we naturally produce as thinking humans are *companions to faith* and can offer us a chance to grow in our relationship with God and others.

What doubts are prompting you into faith conversation this week?

## **Prayer for our New Parish Priest**

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments;  
an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## **Parish Prayers**

### **THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:**

#### **IN THE WORLD: -**

- ⇒ **The Church of Ireland - Vacant**
- ⇒ **The Diocese of North West Australia: †Gary Nelson; Clergy and People of the Diocese:**

#### **IN THE DIOCESE:-**

- ⇒
- ⇒ **The Parish of Toowoomba, St Bartholomew's:** Adam Lowe, Daniel Rouhead, Peter Dutton, Bettrys Lowe, Amy Norman, Michael Calder, Holly Adamson
- ⇒ **Anglicare SQ Children & Families, Morayfield Residential & Foster Kinship Care**
- ⇒ **Toowoomba Anglican School, Toowoomba:** Head of School – Simon Lees; Chaplain – Zoe Browne; Chair of School Council – Mac Drysdale; members of School Council; staff & students

**LOCALLY: FOR VETERANS, SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AND ALL WHO LAY ASIDE THEIR OWN SAFETY TO SAFEGUARD OTHERS. FOR MILITARY MEDICS WHO ANSWER THE CALL OF DUTY AND COMPASSION.**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Roselee, Steph and Chris, Kerry, Gloria, Joseph, Linda, Elizabeth, Bernie, Don, Andrea.

*(NOTE: under the Federal Privacy Act, consent of the person you wish to pray for must be obtained. No details of need / illness can be published without consent)*

### **In Memory, April 19– April 25**

**Tania Bellina, 2015;  
Diane Puodziunas (nee Parker), 1988; Matt Puodziunas, 1988, Derek Parker, 1999.**



With April 25 fast approaching, and as coronavirus restrictions remain tightly in place, many Australians are considering how they will mark the national day of remembrance and wondering which, if any, Anzac Day services will go ahead.

The Australian War Memorial said its annual Anzac Day service would proceed.

It will also form part of a live ABC broadcast, [starting with the National Ceremony from 5:30am AEST.](#)

The service will involve a revised ceremony with no veterans' march and no members of the public present.

"Due to COVID-19 the Memorial is not open to the public and we will be encouraging people to mark Anzac Day respectfully from their homes."

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."*

**Lest we forget**

## WHAT WE DO

**Knitting Circle: St Johns' Guild; Hoy; Mah-Jong; Little Children's Church; Teen Church**

All these activities are suspended until further notice. We will notify parishioners of any activities which we can re-introduce when current strict conditions are eased. Please continue to knit and crochet for our donations to hospitals.

### **Cake Stall: (A major fundraiser for the Parish):**

The Cake Stalls have been cancelled due to virus concerns.. We apologise if you have been making cakes and preserves and hope that they can be kept for another stall, whenever that might be.

## PASTORAL CARE AND PHONE TREE

It is most important that we look after one another during these uncertain and unsettling times. Our Parish is setting up a Pastoral Care Ministry (to support those who are self-isolating or who are sick) and a Phone Tree so that we can have small groups calling and supporting one another. To assist this we need to be sure that we have your current phone number, email address and home address. Please supply these to the Parish Office by email or by phone to Rev Jamee. Then we can form small groups of five who will ring and check in with one another regularly. Rev Jamee will be ringing everyone in our Parish contact list in the next few weeks so we need your current preferred phone number.

Please be assured that we will do all we can to help and support all of our parishioners and other local people who need help. We will pray for those who are sick and help with groceries, medications and any other practical needs we can.



## Phone Tree Ministry Network



As we are unable to meet for weekly worship while we weather the storm of pandemic, we are engaging in an exciting and vital new ministry network called the Phone Tree.

We are connecting with each other over the phone to have pastoral conversations, share stories, bible readings and prayers together.

Being the Church looks different at the moment, but we are still the Body of Christ and we are still ministering together!



If you would like to be part of a phone tree please SMS Rev'd Jamee 0452 338 933 with your details so that you can be connected with a branch of caring Christians who are committed to sharing God's love and compassion. May God give us all strong roots in our hope in Christ and continue to nourish us through this time.

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER RESOURCES

**The Prayer Book contains daily services, prayers for special occasions and much more. If you wish to order your own (A Prayer Book for Australia from Broughton Publishing) go to Koorong ([koorong.com.au](http://koorong.com.au)).**

**Devotional Material Online: See the Wednesday Weekly for links to Sunday Devotions ([anglicanfocus.org.au/category/front-page/spirituality/sunday-devotions/](http://anglicanfocus.org.au/category/front-page/spirituality/sunday-devotions/)).**

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**Weekly Offering:** It is more important than ever that your promised weekly tithing or offering continues. We still have all of our usual parish expenses but will not have an offering plate or fundraising. If possible please set up a regular deduction into the Parish bank account (BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573. Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish).

**The Parish Office will be closed until further notice.**

**Please contact by email or phone 3399 1508 (leave a message—Sarah still checking messages), or you can ring Rev Jamee direct for urgent matters (0452 338 933).**

## **Throughout April**

Coronavirus pandemic – a suggested prayer:

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

*A prayer from the National Council of Churches*