



# Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;  
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter

April 2023

## NEVER GIVE UP ON HOPE

When I taught year 5/6 Scripture, in the lead up to Easter I would teach the Easter story, starting with Palm Sunday, then through Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday to Easter Day. It would take most of the first term, as each week we would concentrate on one part of the story.

Then, just before Easter, together with the students we would map it out on the board, a column to each day. We would know the basic story.

At the end of that I would say, here is the story, but what does it mean?

Sometimes students would be like the student who put their hand up and said, "It means that Jesus was crucified on Good Friday . . ." To which I would say, 'that is the story but what does it mean?'

Other occasions it would be like the student who put their hand up and said. "Easter means never give up on hope."

What a great answer.

Easter means never give up on hope, because God has never given up on the world, even to the point of dying and rising to new life.

The church lives between the time of Christ's death and resurrection, and the final consummation (end of world, second coming) which he will bring. The church is the community of the risen people, created by the resurrected Christ. Our Lord was put to death, but raised from the grave; this is the One whom we follow, whose Spirit is within us.

Congregations may rise and fall, as they have over 2000 years. Even denominations might come and go, as they have over 2000 years. But the church will continue on until the day of Christ. That ought to give comfort, not hope because our hope is in Christ; consolation when times are tough in the church. But that does not stop individuals from running dry. We nurture that resurrection hope, it is sustained, within us through daily prayer, and reading of the Bible, and 'gathering as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ.' And our hope gains resilience as it is tested when we are called to give an account of the hope that is within us, also when we fail, sin, confess our sin and by God's forgiving grace, get up and go again.

The season of Easter is a joyful season as we recall the wonderful story of Jesus, and God's love for each one, and as we walk in the way of Christ each day. It is good news to be children of God.

The Lord has risen.  
He has risen indeed.

Happy Easter.  
Blessings, Keith Hamilton



## HOLY WEEK

- Palm Sunday 9:30 am service 2 April: begin with a gathering on the front lawn and walk into church with Palm Branches.
- Morning prayers Monday to Thursday on Bathurst UC Zoom, 7-7:15 am 3-6 April
- Holy Thursday service at 6-7 pm, 6 April includes soup meal, and communion.

## EASTER

- Good Friday 9:30 am
- Good Friday Julie and I will co-host with David and Sharynne coffee and hot cross buns at the Hamilton's.
- Holy Saturday: working bee 9:30-10:30 am, morning tea 10:30-11 am. bring your cleaning cloths etc, dust down the pews upstairs and downstairs, polish the tableware, put up Easter day banners, flowers, colourful cloths etc, share morning tea together and a day appropriate prayer.
- Easter Day 9:30 am: Reaffirmation of Vows of Baptism and Communion, confirmation and baptism
- Rev Keith will be on leave after Easter, from Monday 10 April, returning to work on Monday 17 April.

## Worship Services

9.30am in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

2 April Rev Keith Hamilton Palm Sunday

7 April Rev Keith Hamilton Good Friday

9 April Rev Keith Hamilton Easter Sunday

16 April Rev David Wrightson

23 April Rev Keith Hamilton

30 April Rev Keith Hamilton

### 'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

## COME AND JOIN IN:

Just a reminder that the BUSS Easter Café BBQ is on **this Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 12-2pm** under the big tree at the back of the church.

You are very welcome to come and enjoy the happy chatter over lunch and listen to the music.

Our music group – The Music BUSS are performing five songs that they have been rehearsing over the past few months. We are very excited about this.



**The Future Directions Team  
Invites Everyone to a  
BBQ/Picnic Lunch**



**Date: 30 April 2023**

**Time: 12.00pm**

**Where: Church Grounds  
(Activities Hall as a contingency plan).**

**Bring: Meat to BBQ and accompaniments  
(we will staff the BBQ) or a Picnic  
Lunch for you and/or your family.**

**Bring a picnic blanket or use chairs  
provided.**

The Future Directions Committee will share progress, and seek ideas, thoughts, questions and comments from our morning and evening Congregations.

This is a time for fellowship.

Bring your hopes, dreams and aspirations for our church.

Keep praying for the Future Directions Team and our congregations, as we discern a way forward together.

Further details in coming weeks.

## **Recent BUSS Activities**

### **EASTER TRADITIONS**

On Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> a small group gathered to learn about some of the traditions of Easter and found it really interesting finding out about the origins and meaning of these traditions that we don't always think about..



## EASTER BISCUIT DECORATING

On Wednesday afternoon we held an Easter biscuit decorating session for families from church and the community. A big thank you to Sue Gunter (a friend of Julie Fry's) who prepares all the biscuits, icing etc and then helps on the day.

Thank you Sue!



### Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email [keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com](mailto:keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com)

### Mowing Roster

15 April Alan

29 April Henry and James

### How to get information/stories out there

For good news stories, upcoming events or updates to be added to the church website email Allan - [allanwray@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at [revaughan@bigpond.com](mailto:revaughan@bigpond.com) by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month .