



Hello Surfers!

Today is Palm Sunday, the day when we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the crowds lauding Him. It is a day where we share palm crosses in remembrance of ancient times when palms were used as symbols of victory, peace and eternal life. Palm crosses will be available after the services for collection.

Our Old Testament reading is often seen as part of the "Servant Songs" in Isaiah, portraying a figure who suffers faithfully and obediently despite opposition (Is. 50:4-9). The Servant listens to God, speaks encouragement to the weary, and does not resist hardship or shame. His confidence is rooted in the Lord's help and vindication, not in worldly approval. Today, this points us to Christ's suffering and example, and it encourages us to trust in God's justice when we face trials for doing what is right.

Today's psalm is a heartfelt cry for mercy amid suffering, rejection, and fear (Ps. 31:9-18). The psalmist openly shares his pain, even admitting feelings of being forgotten or scorned, yet still places trust in God's deliverance. His honesty before God and continued reliance in the face of despair shows the raw reality of faith during affliction. Today, this psalm reminds us that we can bring our deepest griefs and fears to God, trusting that He hears, sees, and saves even when all seems lost.

We find in our New Testament reading a powerful Christological hymn which calls believers to adopt the humility and self-giving love of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11). Though fully divine, Jesus chose to humble Himself, becoming human and obedient even to death on a cross—thereby receiving exaltation from God. This passage beautifully captures both Christ's humility and His ultimate glory. Today, it challenges us to live with servant-hearted humility and reminds us that true greatness in God's kingdom comes through selfless love and obedience.

In our gospel reading we read of Luke's account of Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and death, showing His innocence, compassion, and fulfilment of prophecy even as He is condemned (Lk. 23:1-49). Jesus remains silent before His accusers, forgives those who crucify Him, and offers paradise to the repentant thief. The passage emphasises the injustice He endured and the divine grace He extended to others in His final moments. Today, this account confronts us with the cost of redemption and invites us to respond to Christ's suffering with faith, awe, and gratitude.

The latter part of this week will be quite eventful: Maundy Thursday service begins at 6pm, we have the Good Friday service at 8:30am, and we have our church lunch from 11:30am with Bishop John joining us at 12:15pm taking a respite from his annual pilgrimage. Bishop John will also be joining us on Saturday morning at 8:30am for prayer before continuing his travel, and of course we have three services on Sunday for Easter Day: 7:30am, 9:30am and 5:30pm.

I pray you have a blessed week  
Jim Raistrick  
Rector.



### TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 50.4-9a  
Psalm 31.9-18  
Philippians 2.5-11  
Luke 23.1-49



*The Crucifixion of Jesus*

#### MONDAY 14TH APRIL

8.30am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Craft  
2.30pm Conversation English

#### TUESDAY 15TH APRIL

8.30am Morning Prayer

#### WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL

8.00am Indoor Fitness  
8.30am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Holy Communion

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

8.30am Morning Prayer  
8.00am Christian Meditation  
6.00pm Holy Communion

#### GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

8.30am Prayer and Reflection  
11.30am Church Luncheon  
12.15pm Bishop John Roundhill

#### SATURDAY 19TH APRIL

8.30am Morning prayer with  
Bishop John Roundhill  
8.30am Indoor Fitness  
9.00am Music Practice

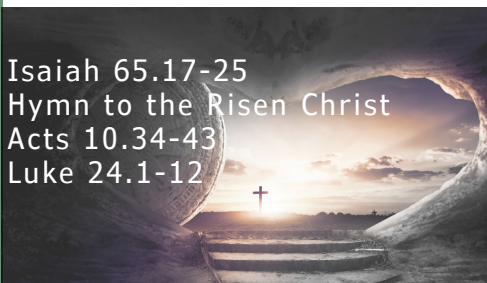
#### EASTER DAY

#### SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

7.30am Holy Communion  
9.30am Holy Communion  
5.30pm Evening Youth Service

### BIBLE READINGS FOR 20TH APRIL

Isaiah 65.17-25  
Hymn to the Risen Christ  
Acts 10.34-43  
Luke 24.1-12



# CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

As we gather to mark Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, we are handed simple palm crosses - humble tokens with rich significance. These small crosses, woven from palm fronds, connect us to the joyous crowd that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, waving palms and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Palm branches were a symbol of victory and peace in the ancient world. In the Christian tradition, they speak to the triumph of Christ—not through military might, but through humility, compassion, and ultimately, the cross. The shape of the palm cross reminds us that the road to Easter joy passes through the sorrow of Good Friday. It is a sign that Christ's kingship is revealed not in grandeur, but in self-giving love. Many parishioners take their palm crosses home as a quiet reminder of this sacred journey. Traditionally, these same palms are returned to the church at the start of Lent the following year, to be burned and used as ashes on Ash Wednesday - a beautiful symbol of the cycle of repentance, redemption, and renewal. As we carry these crosses with us into Holy Week, may they remind us of both the hope that greeted Jesus at the city gates and the deeper hope of resurrection that lies ahead.

HAPPY  
*birthday*

Jan Nott 15<sup>th</sup> April



## EASTER SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday, 17th April**

6.00pm Holy Communion

**Good Friday, 18th April**

8.30am Prayer and Reflection

11.30am Church Luncheon

12.15PM Bishop John Roundhill  
Visit

**Easter Day, 20th April**

7.30am - 9.30am - 5.30pm  
Holy Communion



## About Anglicare - Mission Focus

Our story began over 150 years ago, with the pioneering spirit of five women who founded the Female and Infants Refuge in Ann Street, Brisbane. From those humble beginnings, our commitment to our community extends today to one in thirty Queenslanders. We provide essential services to support individuals and communities focusing on aged care, out of home care, mental health, homelessness and family support. We are proud to be part of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland as we live out our values of love, care, hope and humility.

**Anglicare**

Southern Queensland

## JOIN A BIBLE STUDY GROUP in 2025

Please phone/email the contact person to join a group:

### TUESDAYS

1.30pm Jim Raistrick 0499 773 570

7.00pm Sandra Uptin Sandrauptin@icloud.com

7.00pm Robert Kelly 0439 339 395

### WEDNESDAYS

10.00am George Stuart 0407 741 669

11.00am Judith Atkins 5532 0798

11.00am Jim Raistrick 0499 773 570

2.30pm George Stuart

6.30pm New Wednesday Group,

The Bible Project, Barry Doyle 0414 931 010

## BCA Boxholders

Please drop off your BCA boxes at the Office over the next couple of weeks.

## CHURCH LUNCHEON

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025

11.30am

## COUNCIL MEETING

28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

6.30pm

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Jeanne Croucher and Gail Evans

14<sup>th</sup> April



**THANK YOU for your ongoing generosity and support, to fund the ministry and mission of Surfers Paradise Anglican Church.**

Please continue your kindness as we seek to make Jesus known across our city.

You can do this electronically - BSB : 704-901 Account : 00000630

Anglican Parish of Surfers Paradise OR ...if you would like to arrange a direct debit

contact the office—we will email you the ANFIN Parish Direct Form

or for one-off donations use our QR Code or EFTPOS machine (come in or over the phone).



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