

## *The Minister's Weekly Word...*

Today we enter into the holiest week of the church's year. We begin the walk to the cross. It's a sacred time of reflection, prayer, and inhabiting the way of Jesus. It's a time to draw especially close to God, as God has drawn close to us in Christ. Older generations of Christians used to speak of 'sanctification', of a making holy of one's life by God. And while certain connotations have grown up around that theme which have not always proven helpful, at base it's about allowing the love of God to infuse into our words and deeds more and more. It's a process, one we're all still working through. It comes to a particularly focused time leading up to Easter. The cross both looms and invites, challenges and enfolds, redirects and reconfigures our lives to take on the cruciform shape. As we have studied through our Lenten journey, this is all about growing more deeply into the love of God. Sanctification is about growing in love and letting love grow in us. Love calls for love. And we love because God first loved us. So, we take the fateful step into holy week once more praying to be sanctified; not because we are perfect, but because we follow the one who is, the one who loves us and gave himself for us. And that by him we are made new or as the old King James Version used to have it, 'by his stripes our wounds are healed.' (Isaiah 53:5). We take this way together, arm in arm, life in life, and thank God we are never alone. ***Blessings, Michael***



### **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES (Samaritans Purse)**

Thank you to Barbara Learmont who has volunteered to co-ordinate the distribution and collection of the Christmas Shoeboxes this year. Barbara will have information sheets arriving very soon. In the meantime, you might be on the lookout for special items to fit into your Shoeboxes (Operation Christmas Child): Something to wear, Something to play with, Something for school, Something to love, Something special, Something for personal hygiene.

Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 48711583 or [hooglandsj46@gmail.com](mailto:hooglandsj46@gmail.com). Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** ([bkuc.com.au](http://bkuc.com.au)) should be sent to [lucyear179@gmail.com](mailto:lucyear179@gmail.com)

## **Bowral Uniting Church**

*"A church for all people..."*



**Sunday 9 April 2017 (Palm Sunday)**

### **Our ministry focus areas are:**

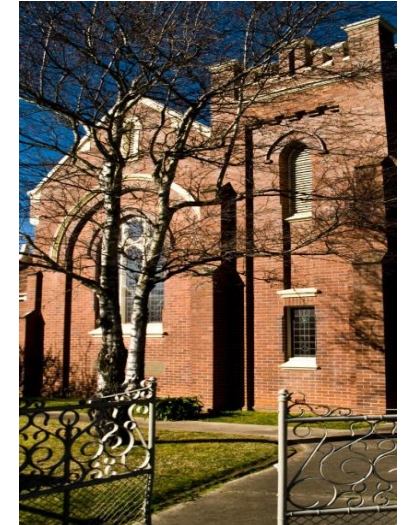
*Worship & Discipleship  
Children & Families  
Seniors  
Community engagement*

*You are most welcome at worship today, particularly if you are a visitor or a new resident of the area.*

*We would love to get to know you, and help you feel at home.*

*Please make yourself known.*

*Join us for coffee after the service!*



**For matters concerning the life of the congregation, contact:**  
**Reverend Michael Earl, on**  
**(Mobile 0422 433 569).**

**Office: 28 Bendooley Street**  
**Telephone: (02) 4862 1350**  
**Internet: [bkuc.com.au](http://bkuc.com.au)**

### **Church Council Chairperson**

Mrs Kathryn Searle 4872 1002

### **Church Council Secretary**

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

### **Church Council Treasurer**

Mr. Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

### **Elders' Convenor**

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

### **Readings:**

Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philemon 2: 5-11; Matthew 26:14-27

**A Hearing Loop is in place in the Church and Hall.**

To access it, switch your hearing aid to the "T" position.

It is advisable not to sit right against the wall

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

### Monday 3 April

9.30am Lenten Study Group MUC  
2.00pm Bible Study @ the Manse  
5.30pm Uniting Voices Rehearsal

### Tuesday 4 April

9.30am Playgroup  
9.30am Pieces & Yarns  
7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's, Mittagong  
7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's, Mittagong  
7.30pm Young Women's Bible Study @ Lucy Earl's

### Wednesday 5 April

10.00am Reflections Study Group @ Bunker's in Bowral  
12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH  
12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!  
7.00pm Lenten Study Group at the Pattinson's in Moss Vale

### Thursday 6 April

3.30pm Kids Connect

### Friday 7 April

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

### TODAY'S SERVICES 9 April (Palm Sunday)

9.00am Service of Holy Communion (Rev Michael Earl & Rev Dr David Manton)  
11.30am Uniting Families Connect  
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

**Friday Service - Fri 14 April at 9 am (Good Friday – Rev M Earl)**  
*Special Music & Readings...followed by morning tea with Hot Cross buns*

### NEXT SUNDAY 16 April (Easter Day)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)  
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

### Readings Next Week:

Jer 31: 1-6; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34 – 43; John 20: 1-18

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 9 April	NEXT WEEK: 16 April
Organ	Ann Clipsham	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	S & J Hoogland	Ian Prior
Elder	Barbara Towers	Ann Clipsham
Stewards	Kathy & Greg Searle	Norm & Narelle Dickson
Flowers	Elaine Hills, Denise Layton	Elaine Hills, Denise Layton
Kids Church	11.30am Uniting Families Connect	Lucy Earl
Morning Tea	Victor & Margaret Hugo	<b>Volunteers PLEASE</b>

*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!*



**BOWRAL UC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...!**  
**Please see the rosters on the Gallery noticeboard**

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Let us run to Him as he hastens toward His passion, & imitate those who met Him then, not by covering His path with garments, olive branches & palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before Him, by being humble & by trying to live as He would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at His coming, & God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.' *St Andrew of Crete (660-740), born in Damascus, became Theologian & Bishop of Crete*



## COMING EVENTS

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday during Holy Week...10th – 13 April @ 9.00am each morning: Holy Week Devotions*



Thurs 13 April 6.00pm Maundy Thurs Service @ Mittagong, 6.00PM  
**Fri 14 April 9.00am Good Friday Service**  
*(followed by a special morning tea with Hot Cross buns...)*  
**Sun 16 April 9.00am** Easter Sunday Service  
Thurs 20 April 2.00pm CAMEO meets at The Stumps, Bradman Oval  
Thurs 20 April 6.30pm Elders' meeting  
Thurs 20 April 7.30pm Church Council meeting  
Sun 21 May 10.30am BUC Congregational Meeting

## THE BOWRAL AUTUMN FAIR IS OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR!



A very warm thank you to our -  
Stall Coordinators and to all the congregation for your generous donations and support.

*We hope you had a very enjoyable day of fellowship!*

## INVITATION FROM MOSS VALE UC.

**Messiah and Soup luncheon...Monday April 10**

**12 noon** for lunch followed by a screening of **Handel's Messiah**

For more information or to rsvp call 4868 1134

## EXCITING NEWS - PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

David Shrimpton – our 'Flying Padre' will be visiting us here in Bowral during the weekend of **13th and 14th May**. The Flying Padre support group will be meeting tomorrow morning to plan further, and more details will be included in next week's news sheet – together with an update on David's activities!