



St Peter's  
CHURCH SOUTHPORT



*Easter II & III: Sundays 7 & 14 April 2024*

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

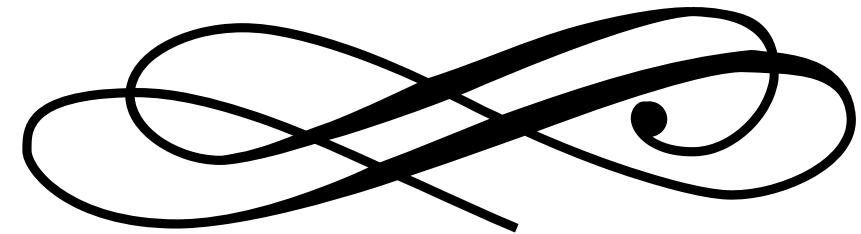
The season of Easter is now upon us. In fasting and prayer, we have, in our own ways, sought to watch and pray with our Lord as he makes his journey to the cross. We know the story so well, yet even so we find ourselves dreading the pain and sorrow that is our Lord's suffering in Passion Week. We know in our heart of hearts that there is no Resurrection without the cross and that we must travel through the valley before reaching the bright hilltop – but even though we know “the old, old story” so well, Easter remains a profoundly moving experience.

Don't be misled by my use of the word 'experience' here. We must remind ourselves that no matter what we do or don't feel the resurrection is an *actual* event in history. It *happened*. Yes, to our sceptical 21st century minds this may pose some discomfort, but allow me a quote from one of the great theologians of the twentieth century, who addresses our modern scepticism directly:

“If we take ourselves as measuring-rod, our human lives, the world as it appears to us, our thoughts and reactions and attempt to judge Christ by them, we can only conclude that the Resurrection was either a psychological result of a religious shock, or the product of a primitive community's desire for a (new religion.) In other words, *individual* or *mass deception*. Then logic demands that this whole chapter of Jesus' life, with all its conditions and conclusions, be eliminated as swiftly as possible and a 'pure' Christianity formulated. Admittedly, what remains will be little more than very thin ethics and piety... The alternative is to realise in our own lives what Christ's whole existence demands: faith. Then we realise that he did not come to bring us new but world-born truths and experience, but to free us from the spell which the world has cast over us... Thus we accomplish the complete reversal of faith, which no longer judges Christ with earthly eyes, but sees the world and everything in and around it with his eyes. Then we do not say: there is no such thing as the return to life of one who has died; therefore the resurrection is a myth, but: Christ rose again; therefore resurrection is possible, and his Resurrection is the foundation of the true world.” *From: Romano Guardini, The Lord, p 476-7.*

A lengthy quote, I know, but it puts the matter succinctly: Christ rose again – therefore resurrection is possible and any 'logical argument' to the contrary is constrained by its own assumptions and constructs.

Our worship over Holy Week is not, therefore, ritual for its own sake or ritual *because it feels good*. Rather, our worship celebrates the most history-shaking events of all time. And because we know that our Lord has risen we also know that in him, we are new creations. Thanks be to God!



*We all know that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” In accordance with this principle, I have deliberately created a pictorial Key Notes this fortnight. We have, of course, had a glorious Easter season. We have enjoyed the triumphal shouts of Palm Sunday (along with Teddy the Donkey!) and we have descended to the depths of Passion Week as we meditated upon the sufferings of our Lord. The glorious music of Haydn at our Tenebrae Service brought us profound depths of emotion and reflection on Good Friday but on Easter Eve we once again celebrated the first light of Easter. To add to our Easter joy we were able to dedicate the new candlesticks and candles also on Easter Eve. All through this journey our Choir brought wonderful musical accompaniment, and so to Luke, Maddie and the choir, a big “thank you.”*





*Palm Sunday*





The flowers in the Church are to  
the Glory of God and are given  
in loving memory by the  
daughter of  
*Charles Alfred Lange*  
~ 7th April ~



# Maundy Thursday: *Foot washing*



# Maundy Thursday: *stripping of the sanctuary*



# Good Friday









Good Friday : *Tenebrae*



# Easter Eve: *lighting of the first light*







*The donated Paschal  
Candlestick and altar  
candlesticks were dedicated.  
New oil candles (including  
a new Paschal Candle)  
were also dedicated*

# Collect & Readings: Easter II ~ Sunday 7 April

## Acts of the Apostles 4: 32-37

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). 37 He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

## Psalm 133

**R How good and pleasant it is to live in unity!**

2 It is like fine oil upon the head  
that runs down upon the beard,  
3 Upon the beard of Aaron,  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe. **R**

4 It is like the dew of Hermon  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:  
life for evermore. **R**

## 1 John Chapter 1:1-2.2

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

St Barnabas

## THE COLLECT

*Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection  
and the life  
of all who put their trust in him:  
raise us, we pray, from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness;  
that we may ever seek the things which are above,  
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## John 20: 19 - 31

19 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.' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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.' 26 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.'

27 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.' 28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' 29 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.'

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 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.

*The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* by Caravaggio, c. 1602



# Collect & Readings: Easter III ~ Sunday 14 April

## Acts of the Apostles 3: 12-20

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, 20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus.

## Psalm 4

**You have put gladness in my heart, O Lord.**

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 'You mortals, how long will you dishonour my glory; how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?' **R**

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord. **R**

6 Many are saying, 'Oh, that we might see better times!' Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R**

## THE COLLECT

*Gracious Father,  
who in your great mercy made glad the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such awareness of his presence with us  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life,  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*"St Peter Preaching in Jerusalem," oil on canvas, painted by  
Charles Poëerson, 1642*



## 1 John 2: 15-17 & 3: 1-6

2 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; 16 for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever. 3 1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

## Luke 24: 36 - 48

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.





# Parish Diary ~ April 2024

## Sunday 7 April – Easter II

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
9:30 am Holy Baptism & Eucharist (APBA)  
5:45 pm Holy Eucharist (APBA)

## Monday 8 April

9:00 am Holy Communion at 'Abri'  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist at St Vincent's, Villa la Salle  
10:00 am 'Coffee on Monday' – Parish Centre  
7:00 pm Requiem Mass

## Tuesday 9 April

6:00 pm Choir Practice—New members' welcome

## Wednesday 10 April

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (APBA)  
11:00 am Study Series – 'Surprised by the God of Hope'

## Thursday 11 April

Midday Holy Eucharist (APBA)  
1:00 pm Phoenix Fellowship – Guest Speaker, Letwina Malinga (Co-ordinator of Women's Space, Labrador)  
7:00 pm Parish Council

## Sunday 14 April – Easter III

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist (APBA) SPARK Sunday School starts  
5:45 pm Holy Eucharist (BCP)

## Monday 15 April

10:00 am 'Coffee on Monday' – Parish Centre

## Tuesday 16 April

6:00 pm Choir Practice—New members' welcome

## Wednesday 17 April

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (APBA)  
11:00 am Study Series—'Surprised by the God of Hope'

## Thursday 18 April

Midday Holy Eucharist (APBA)

## Sunday 21 April – Easter IV

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist (APBA) ~ SPARK Sunday School  
4:30 pm Wine & Cheese – meet Bp John  
5:45 pm Evensong/Holy Eucharist (APBA) with Bp John

### Monday 22 April

10:00 am 'Coffee on Monday' – Parish Centre

### Tuesday 23 April

6:00 pm Choir Practice—New members' welcome

### Wednesday 24 April

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (APBA)  
11:00 am Study Series – 'Surprised by the God of Hope'  
12.30 pm Anzac Eve - GCUH

### Thursday 25 April

5:30 am Anzac Service Southport Parklands  
Midday *No Service*

### Friday 26 April

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist/Feast of St Mark

### Saturday 27 April

10:00 am Baptism

## Sunday 28 April – Easter V

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist (APBA) ~ SPARK Sunday School  
5:45 pm Holy Eucharist (BCP)

### Monday 29 April

10:00 am 'Coffee on Monday' – Parish Centre

### Tuesday 30 April

6:00 pm Choir Practice—New members' welcome

### Wednesday 1 May

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist/Feast of Philip and James

"St Peter's Church Southport, is a welcoming and hospitable community, committed to the worship of God in beauty and holiness in the classical Anglican tradition."

You can find out more about us at

[www.stpetersgc.org.au](http://www.stpetersgc.org.au)

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**Director of Music**

Mr. Luke Sharpe

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**SERVICES**

**Sunday**

7:00am: Holy Eucharist (BCP)

9:30am: Holy Eucharist (APBA)

5:45pm: Holy Eucharist (APBA)

5:45pm: Choral Evensong

(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month)

**Weekday Eucharist**

10:00am – Wednesday

12:00pm – Thursday

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Church Southern Queensland