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**Readings for: 18th April 2021**

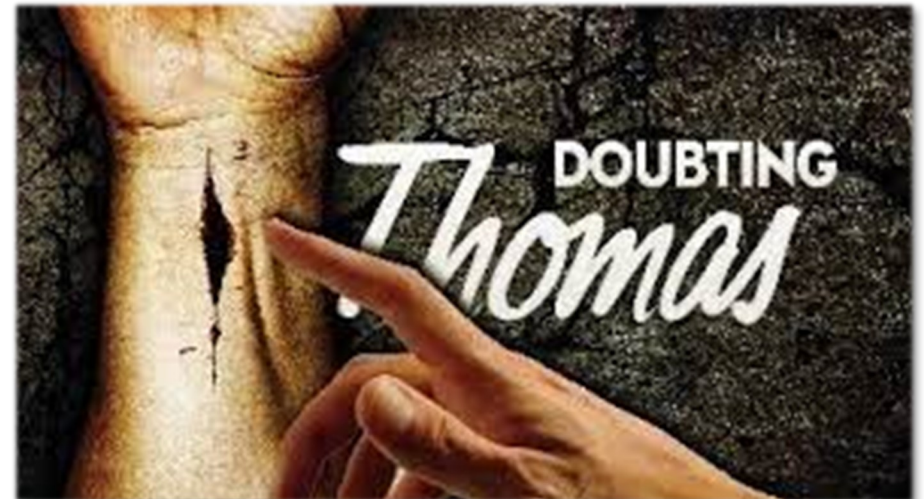
Acts 3:12-20  
Psalm 4  
1 John 2:15-17,3:1-6  
Gospel Luke 24:36b-48



# ANGLICAN PARISH OF BYRON

*A Christian Presence in the Community,  
Living by Faith, Known by Love,  
Sharing a Voice of Hope*

**Sunday 11th April 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter**



**Acknowledgement of Country**  
*We, the Anglican Ministry of Byron, acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of this land. We pay tribute and respect to the elders of these nations and people, both past and present. We acknowledge their connection with and care for this country.*

All are welcome in Anglican Ministry Area of Byron

**MESSAGE FROM LOCUM RECTOR - REV'D SANDRA**

Dear people of faith,  
As we move into the Easter Season our Gospel today presents us with the account of the greatly misunderstood Apostle, Thomas.

He has been referred to pejoratively as "Doubting Thomas" throughout the ages because Thomas lived by the adage "seeing is believing" and he looked for certain tangible signs to shore up his belief.

However, as you consider the story of Thomas after the Lord's resurrection, have you ever realized that Thomas never doubts the Risen Lord?

Thomas doubts the word and the witness of the other disciples yet, when the Risen Jesus turns up a week later, Thomas is filled with faith. "My Lord and my God," he confesses.

In this story from John, it is not Christ who occasions disbelief in Thomas, but Christ's disciples gathered there in the Upper Room. Thomas simply did not find his friends to be credible.

Jesus' language at the Last Supper is one of riddles. It is almost possible to see Thomas, brows furrowed, trying to follow the implications of everything Jesus is saying, and finally blurting out: "We don't know where you are going. How can we possibly know the way!" Thomas surely wasn't alone in his confusion.

Thomas did not understand but he wanted to! He can't follow Jesus unless he knows where and how. It's as simple as that.

The Lord arrives when Thomas is out. The disciples are gathered in fear behind locked doors. Jesus appears and fills them with joy. He confers on them a mission and makes his presence and power known to his closest friends.

But Thomas isn't present. Thomas returns and they tell him they have seen the Lord -- but for Thomas, something doesn't ring true. If they have seen the Lord why are they still locked up tight in that room? If they are filled with such joy, why couldn't he read it on their faces?

# Weekly Happenings

**Week Commencing 11th April 2021**

**TUESDAY:** Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm  
RSL Life Communion 10am

**WEDNESDAY:** Byron Bay Office 9am-4pm

**THURSDAY:** Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm

**FRIDAY:** Faithfulness in Service Training  
St Paul's 10.00am - 12.30pm

**SUNDAY:** **St Martin's 9.00am**  
**All Soul's 9.00am**

**Op Shop Opening Hours:**

**Bangalow:** Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 10am-2pm  
Saturday: 9.30am-12.30pm.

**Byron Bay:** Tuesday—Friday 9am-1pm  
Saturday 9.30am -12.30pm

**Mullumbimby:** Monday-Friday 9.30am-3.30pm  
Saturday 9am-12noon.

**Wardens:** Patricia Ellis (Rector's Warden), Ian White.

**Bulletin News Items:**

For inclusion in the weekly bulletin please forward to Sue Williams by Wednesday morning by 12 noon. Sue Williams Phone 66856431 Email: admin@byronanglicans.org.au

**Mission of the Month:** The Rescue Helicopter. This is a worth while and much needed charity in our region, please consider giving generously.

A sheet has been prepared for those requesting prayers and are inside the Churches for your use. Please fill in and give to Sue Williams.

**1 May 2021 – 10am Thanksgiving Service at St Aidan’s Church, Eureka.** Refreshments to follow in Community Hall. Preacher: Archdeacon Matthew Jones. **RSVP** Office Manager Anne Wareng by 25th April 66843552 office@byronanglicans.org.au. If you are able to assist with morning tea please contact Patricia Ellis.

**5 June 2021 – 10am Thanksgiving Service at St Oswald’s Church, Broken Head.** Refreshments to follow in the grounds. Celebrant: Archdeacon Matthew Jones and Preacher The Rev’d Richard Brown. Enquiries to Rev’d



Sandra or Ian White.

**Mission:** The Anglican Board of Mission

**Executive Director:** The Rev’d John Deane

**Diocese of Grafton: Senior Leadership Team: Bishop:**

The Right Rev’d Dr Murray Harvey, Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks, **Dean:** The Rev’d. Dr Greg Jenks,

**Mission Companion:** Archdeacon Gail Hagon.

**The Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy:** Bishop Grant Dibden & Jeanette, Chaplains and members of the Defence Force.

**The Parish of Kyogle:** The Rev’d Leslie Fotakis & Peter.

**LLM:** Noel, Maurice.

**Prayer Request:** Judith, Hilary and Paul, Steve & Jenny, Tony, Fr Gary & Robyn Priest, Lorretta, Chris, Donna.

For the work of the Community Centres and their work with the homeless.

The Liberation Larder.

The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

For the Ministry of Anglicare.

For the Ministry of Byron Bay & Mullumbimby Christian Education.

If they have been empowered by the Spirit of God to complete Christ’s work on earth – what are they waiting for?

So Thomas says to them, in so many words, “I don’t find you believable.” Thomas – simple, loyal, loving, straightforward, down to earth, direct -- who didn’t understand but wanted to, who longed to follow Jesus but who needed to know the way.

Thomas didn’t doubt the Risen Lord - he doubted the word of his friends! Thomas found it highly unlikely that the Lord was Risen because he was surrounded by a group of witnesses whom he simply did not find to be credible.

There is an ancient saying in the Eastern Church: If you want to know if Jesus is really Risen, look around at the faces you see in Church at the Easter vigil.

Thomas could not read the presence of the Risen One on the faces of his friends..

What would he read on our faces? What do we read on one another’s faces? This question has everything to do with the ultimate success of the mission of the church.

We need to look and behave like a credible community of faith - a community that has seen the Lord and been transformed – something is readily seen by others through the quality of our Christian lives.

### **Readings for Today**

**Acts 4.32-37** Differences of opinion are inevitable in human persons but spiritual unity is essential. Without spiritual unity the church can not survive. The early church thrived because of their generosity and spiritual unity.

**Psalm 133** David states that unity is pleasant and precious. Unfortunately this is not always so in churches and people disagree and cause disunity over unimportant issues. Some delight in causing tension by discrediting others. Yet unity is essential because it renews and revitalizes communities of faith as credible witnesses to Jesus.

**1 John 1.1 – 2.2** This letter was written by John, one of Jesus’ original 12 disciples. John writes about fellowship with other believers giving three principles behind Christian fellowship. (1) It is grounded in the testimony of God’s Word. Without this underlying strength togetherness is impossible. (2) It is mutual. Dependent on the unity of the believers and (3) It is renewed daily by the Holy Spirit. It is made possible only through a living relationship with the Risen Christ.

**John 20. 19-31** Jesus gave the disciples their Spirit-powered and Spirit-guided mission – to preach the good news of God’s salvation. To understand the life and mission of Jesus more fully we need to study the scriptures.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you.  
Rev’d Sandra Kjellgren  
Locum Rector

### **Message from Rev Rosie**

As we observed the dawn on Easter morning, may we continue the journey of the Easter narrative. Upheld. Loved. Blessed and encircled by grace. For this is the blessing given us. The calling of our name. May these weeks of Christ’s journey fill us with hope and the desire to live in the light of the everlasting love of God. I offer you words from the insights of Jan Richardson.  
Rev. Rosie

#### **The Magdalene’s Blessing For Easter Day**

*You hardly imagined  
standing here,  
everything you ever loved  
suddenly returned to you,  
looking you in the eye  
and calling your name.*

*And now  
you do not know  
how to abide this hole  
in the center of your chest,  
where a door slams shut  
and swings open  
at the same time,  
turning on the hinge  
of your aching  
and hopeful heart.*

*I tell you,  
this is not a banishment  
from the garden.  
This is an invitation,  
a choice,  
a threshold,  
a gate.*

*This is your life  
calling to you  
from a place*

*you could never  
have dreamed,  
but now that you  
have glimpsed its edge,  
you cannot imagine  
choosing any other way.*

*So let the tears come  
as anointing, as consecration,  
and then let them go.*

*Let this blessing  
gather itself around you.*

*Let it give you  
what you will need  
for this journey.*

*You will not remember  
the words—  
they do not matter.*

*All you need to remember  
is how it sounded  
when you stood  
in the place of death  
and heard the living  
call your name.*

—Jan Richardson  
from *Circle of Grace: A Book of  
Blessings for the Seasons*

### **Parish News:**

**Easter Egg Guessing Competition:** The winner of the Easter egg guessing competition is Lyn Helmoed.

**Rosters:** In each of our centres there are forms for you to put your name down for reading, prayers, welcoming/COVID help & morning tea. These are important roles in the running of the centres each Sunday. **Please take the time to prayerfully consider if you can help and put your name down maybe in a centre you don’t normally visit.**

### **Community Outreach within our Parish:**

**Feeding the Community:** Donations of non-perishable food items e.g. Baked Beans, tinned fish, tinned spaghetti, pasta, rice, biscuits etc. can now be left at the churches for collection.

**Tents for the homeless:** Donations of tents and tarps. We would be so grateful if you could donate to this important outreach. This could be by making a financial donation or providing the items needed. Once again items can be left at any of our churches

### **Diary Dates:**

**Faithfulness in Service Workshop:** As part of our commitment for volunteering in the Anglican Church we are required to do this course. It is a three hour course to be held on Friday 16 April@ 10am in St Paul’s. Please RSVP by 13th April to the Parish Office Anne Wareing 66843552.

**Safe Ministry Training 24 April – 9am to 1pm** at St Andrew’s Lismore. Please register your attendance by contacting St Andrew’s Parish Office directly on 6621 3200 or email them at [office@lismoreanglicans.com](mailto:office@lismoreanglicans.com)

### **Sunday Services:**

**18 April: 9am All Souls Bangalow  
9am St Martin’s Mullumbimby**

***You will be able to register by using the QR Code or by giving your details on the day.***