

The Clayton

Clayton Wesley Uniting Church Congregation and The Spire Community

19 April 2023 No 132

From the Lectionary

23 April 2023 Easter 3

- Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
- 1 Peter 1: 17-23
- Luke 24:13-35

30 April 2023 Easter 4

- Acts 2:42-47
- Psalm 23
- 1 Peter 2: 19-25
- John 10:1-10

7 May 2023 Easter 5

- Acts 7:55-60
- Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16
- 1 Peter 2: 2-10
- John 14: 1-14

14 May 2023 Easter 6

- Acts 17: 22-31
- Psalm 66: 8-20
- 1 Peter 3: 13-22
- John 14: 15-21

From the Minister

THOMAS John 20: 19-31 by Rev Olly Ponsonby

When I was a prison chaplain, I once shared the story of Thomas from the Gospel of John and a prisoner stopped me and asked, “why would Jesus turn up when Thomas was out of the room?” He wasn’t trying to be clever. It was an honest question. “Why would Thomas have been excluded from that blessing?” “If this is the joy that Jesus promised, why has it gone to literally all the surviving disciples, with only Thomas excluded?”

This prisoner – who had doubtless experienced a lifetime of being outside the favoured group, a lifetime of watching others have advantages and get ahead – gave me an insight into how Thomas may have felt... And how I too would have probably felt... “Why them, and not me?” His need for answers – something to help him move closer to believing – was great.

For Thomas, a whole week passes with no re-visit from Jesus... What was going through Thomas’ mind? How did the waiting feel?

Of course, we know that Jesus does suddenly reappear a week later, with a greeting of peace. Then turning to Thomas, and responding specifically to Thomas’ desire and need, Jesus says, put your hand into the wound in my side, and see my hands. **Stop doubting and believe!** (20:27)

We don’t know if Thomas even touches Jesus; he has seen Jesus and believes. And Thomas declares, **“my Lord and my God!”** (Jn 20:28).

Thomas’ belief is not a head thing, but a heart thing – my Lord and my God! Summing up the entire Gospel in five words; the Gospel that started with the words: **“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”** Why? **“So that those who believe [that’s now Thomas] have the right to become children of God.”** (Jn. 1:12). For some scholars, this is the climax of John’s Gospel. Jesus is God, and brings us into a close, personal relationship with God: **my Lord and my God!**

Because of Thomas, Jesus responds with the wonderful promise: **“blessed are those who believe without seeing me”** (Jn 20:29) and you and I can be encouraged by those words today.

For the full text of Olly’s message, go to www.claytonwesley.org.au

Repairs to The Spire

We have been fortunate to gain a third State Government Heritage Grant of \$20,000 to assist in maintaining the heritage listed church building.

This stage will include repair and weatherproofing the landmark Spire, removal of years of pigeon droppings from inside the bell tower, bird proofing and repairing surrounds and improved protection for the western stained-glass windows.

The work area will be fenced off, preventing access through the front doors of the church until expected completion on 19 May. Please enter and exit by the side door on the northern side of the church. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Welcome Back

Welcome back Audrey after suffering a slight injury last week. So good to have your smiling face back in The Spire Community!

Upcoming Services and Events

Sunday 23 April 10 am

Led by Keith Maynard
Organist: Pip Parkin

Friday 28 April 10 am Clayton Church Homes Foundation Day

Celebration of the founding of Clayton Church Homes (from the then Clayton Congregational Church) at Magill Activities Room, Magill Residential Services, 43 Fisher St, Magill

Sunday 30 April 10 am

Led by Dr Sarah Agnew, story-teller and theologian
Organist/Pianist: Neil Palmer

Sunday 7 May 10 am

Led by Rev Andrew Robertson, minister of City View Uniting Church
Organist: Ashleigh Tobin

Sunday 14 May 10 am - Induction service for Rev Olly Ponsonby

Led by Pastor Trevor Phillips, Chair of Wimala Presbytery
Organist: Julia Szuster

Questions? Contact the Church Office on 08 8331 9589

Clayton Wesley Uniting Church 280 Portrush Rd Beulah Park

www.claytonwesley.org.au

