



Easter 2026



Easter is a time when people often reconnect with Church. For some, Easter and Christmas are the times when the pull of past attendance or the pressure from families and culture draw people back into church buildings. Easter is a great time to reconnect with Church. It is a story of hope and renewal packaged in resurrection following crucifixion.

Easter opens us to being able to ask questions and challenge some of the often-simplified understandings about God and the story of God's redemption and salvation. Easter is a story of God's love, after all "for God so loved the world that he sent his son so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." [John 3: 16] However, there is no mention of the cross in this. In the verses which comes before this, Jesus says, " And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so

must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. [John 3: 14-15]

Easter opens an opportunity to think about God, and if God exists and loves us, what does Jesus mean for us? Why would God become human in the person of Jesus and what does the cross and the following resurrection truly mean for us in our lives today? The stories in the Bible around the events that we celebrate at Easter have people not believing that what happened could be true. There are people show doubt, don't recognise Jesus at first and struggle to work out what it all means.

Easter needs people to come and try to work out for themselves what it means. It is not just about believing some stories or some theology or doctrines. The stories are

important, but they all seem to point to how we each can meet Jesus, who was Immanuel = God with us, in our own way and discover something in that encounter which is transformative and life-giving. Easter is a time for connection with God and each other and an awakening of faith as we find God at work in our lives in ways which might begin with doubt, but end in a call to a life of meaning and purpose.

Maybe having recently re-encountered the story of the Samaritan woman and her model of missional curiosity, we as the Church, the people of God might consider whom we might ask to Church at Easter. It might also be good for us to consider what Easter means to us. How have we met God? What questions do we still have? How might we share our thoughts and experience of faith and what God has done for us humbly with others and ask them whether or not this God whom we meet in Jesus might be the Christ and have something to offer us all. It is something to think about.

God bless
Jon

The Easter experience

Jon and Elaine represented our congregation in the Gordon-Pymble (and friends) Uniting Easter Experience from Monday to Wednesday in the week leading up to Palm Sunday. Year 4 students from Ravenswood School for Girls and Pymble Ladies' College for to experience in an interactive presentation of the events of Holy Week. Some said it was the best excursion ever. One very enthusiastic young person said it was the best experience of their life. This outreach to local young people had been going 27 years and it did once include local public schools. Now for a range of reasons those schools aren't willing to come, so we present to students from our Uniting Church Schools.



Easter with Shine



Shine met again on Sunday 22 March.

The theme of their time together was getting ready for Easter. On top of enjoying fellowship and sharing a meal, each member made a diorama of the Easter story complete with garden tomb.



Holy Week

Services
@ St. Matthew's

Maundy Thursday
— **2 April**
7.30pm

Good Friday— **3 April**
9am

Easter Sunday Services
— **5 April**
8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Looking forward to sharing the journey with you all.



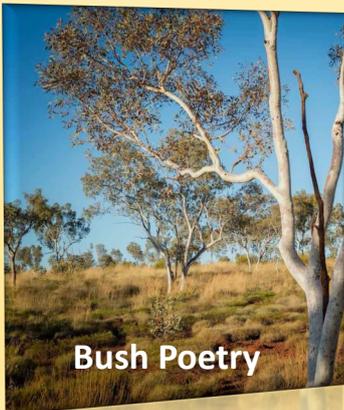
Thursday 2 April 2026

10am—12noon

Guest speaker: Colin Elliot

“Bush Poetry”

Colin will present a range of poems he has written, which includes some of his bush poetry as well as others of his interesting and ‘amusing’ life’s experiences.



These informal morning gatherings include devotions, morning tea and guest speakers which cover a large range of interesting and informative topics.

***** ALL WELCOME *****



President's Easter Message 2026 Rev Charissa Suli President, Uniting Church in Australia

If life feels loud right now... If the world feels more anxious than peaceful... The first Easter happened behind locked doors.

Not in a cathedral. Not in celebration. But in fear.

And into that fear, the risen Jesus stood among his disciples and said:

“Peace be with you.” He says it twice — because sometimes once isn’t enough.

As President of the Uniting Church in Australia, I want to speak into this moment we are living through — because the world does not need more noise. It needs peace.

Many of us are carrying more than we show.

We feel it when making ends meet feels harder than it used to. In private grief.

In young people wrestling with anxiety. In conversations that divide more than they heal.

Across the world, families live behind locked doors of their own. Across the Pacific, rising seas remind us how fragile home can feel. Here in Australia, the wounds of this land are still carried by First Peoples. Easter does not look away from any of this. When Jesus appeared, he showed his hands and his side. He did not hide his wounds. Resurrection is not denial. It is love moving through scars.

He stood among his disciples — not performing, not demanding — simply present. And he breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit.

This is how his peace comes alive in them. Not by pretending everything is fine, but in the middle of real life.

It brings them back to God — and back to one another. As Christians, this matters for us.

Because if Christ is risen — and he is — then fear does not have the final word.

The Church does not live by anxiety. We live by resurrection.

Not anxious about survival, but faithful in witness. We are here to represent Jesus Christ.

And that peace does not stay behind locked doors.

It moves outward. It sends us. So, this Easter — Receive his peace. Stand firm in resurrection hope.

And live as people of resurrection — because death and fear do not have the final word. Because the tomb is empty. Love has not ended. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Happy Easter.

Peace be with you.

See [Link to message.](#)

[President's Easter Message 2026 – Uniting Church Australia](#)



Parramatta Mission



In April, we will be collecting beanies and scarves to be distributed to disadvantaged people at Parramatta Mission. A collection tub will be available at the top of the stairs.



Thanks everyone who knitted and crocheted items last year. Our donations were greatly appreciated.

Christine Haines 0401344800



**New
digital
Sign**

We have a new digital sign. Our old sign was starting to fail and was not repairable. The new sign is bigger, brighter and easier to program. Keep an eye out for the displaying of things happening at our Church and preschool.

Garage

SALE

**1st Saturday of the month
9am-12pm**

Upcoming dates

- **No Sale in April**
- **2 May**
- **6 June**

*Pre-loved
Household items,
Electrical, Toys & Books
(Fiction, Non-fiction & children's books)*

St. Matthew's Lower hall

From the St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

'Doing little things can make a big difference'.

Topic: Climate Change - An International Fossil Fuel Treaty

Fossil fuels are oil, gas and coal. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, which trap heat in the atmosphere and drive global warming.

The First International Conference on the 'Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels' will be held at Santa Marta, Colombia on 28th and 29th April 2026. This conference is backed by 18 countries, including many South Pacific island nations, which are at the forefront of the environmental damage being caused by climate change. At this stage it appears that Australia is not sending a delegation. A petition is being raised by faith-based groups all over the world to present at the conference. The response of Australian faith-based groups will show our Australian politicians that a fossil fuel treaty is an important issue for voters. One priority of this treaty on fossil fuels is to make sure that people who are the most vulnerable don't suffer as part of the transition to renewables.

The much talked about 'Paris Agreement' is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 195 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, on 12 December 2015. It was effective from 4th November 2016. As of 27th January 2026, there are 194 Parties to the Paris Agreement. Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels". However, the Paris Agreement makes no mention of fossil fuels or the necessity to organise an international plan to phase them out.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC, pronounced 'Ark') is a multi-faith organisation representing people of faith in Australia. The ARRCC team is working with GreenFaith International and other global faith-based organisations for a mass faith sign-on to the Fossil Fuel Treaty in the lead-up to the upcoming 'Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels' conference. The link to the proposed treaty is below.

What we can do - ARRCC is asking people of faith to:

1. Sign the multi faith petition online, any person of faith of any faith can sign.
2. Ask other people you know to sign the petition.
3. Sing songs and record them to attract public awareness. ARRCC can provide some songs. Bridgewater Uniting Church in South Australia have recorded a song. These go viral and promote media discussion to spread the word about the petition. Let me know if you are interested in participating in this one!
4. Writing letters and/or emails to politicians

To learn more you can watch videos on the Fossil Fuel Treaty campaign. The link is:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgx9FuAPobvv0nbu6XmYeV-zOCWogu_vp

Proposed treaty document link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wyXwsqbznPdDMMPe5r1WlcP_doo_zUaj/view?usp=sharing

Link for signing the petition: https://actionnetwork.org/forms/multi-faith-letter-2?source=direct_link&

Blessings, Amanda M, SAMMT

Silence and stillness in every season

Daily readings with John Main



ON BEING COMMITTED TO GROWTH AND MATURITY

The wonderful revelation that is there for all of us to discover, if only we will set out the path with discipline, is that our spirit is rooted in God and that each of us has an eternal destiny and an eternal significance and importance. That is a primary discovery for each of us to make, that the nature we possess has this infinite potential for development and that development can only come if we undertake this pilgrimage to our own centre. Our centre is our own heart because it is only there, in the depths of our own being, that we can discover ourselves rooted in God. Meditation is just this way of making contact with our own spirit and in that contact finding the way of integration, of finding everything in our experience coming into harmony, everything in our experience judged and aligned on God.

People ask, 'How long will this take?' of they say, 'I have been meditating every morning and every evening for six months and I'm not sure if it has made any difference yet.' The answer to that is that it doesn't matter how long it takes. All that matters is that we are truthfully on the way, on the pilgrimage, and that each day—although perhaps only by one centimetre at a time—our commitment to truth and to freedom grows. The growth is often imperceptible, but that does not matter. All that matters is that we are growing, that we have not settled for half and that we have not betrayed the gift of our own being but that we are committed to growth and to maturity.

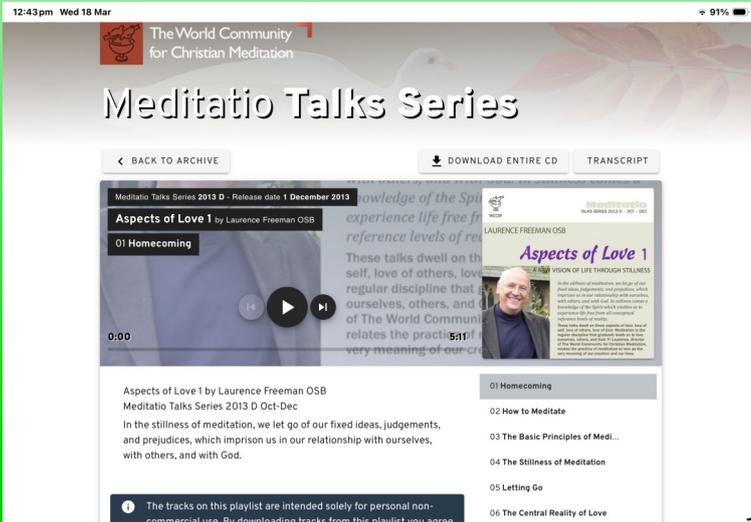
Moment of Christ





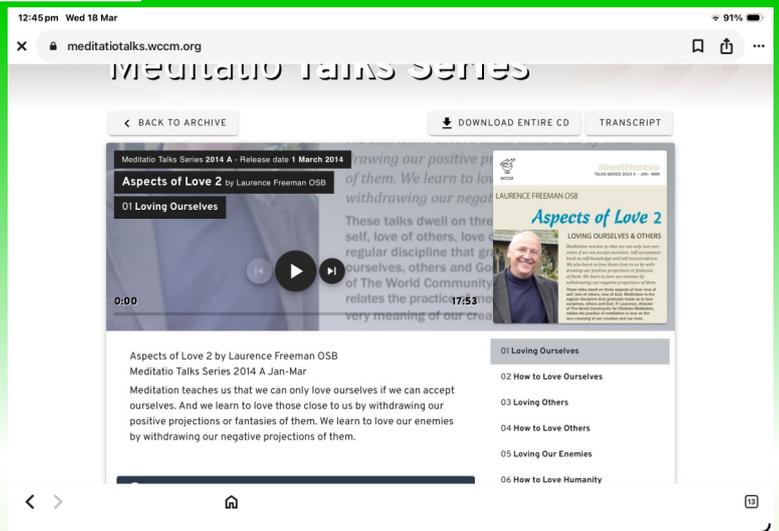
Meditation talk series starting on Monday 13th of April. Both groups will be listening to these before meditation time.

Aspects of Love 1 – Homecoming
Aspects of Love 2 – Loving ourselves
Aspects of Love 3 – How to Love God

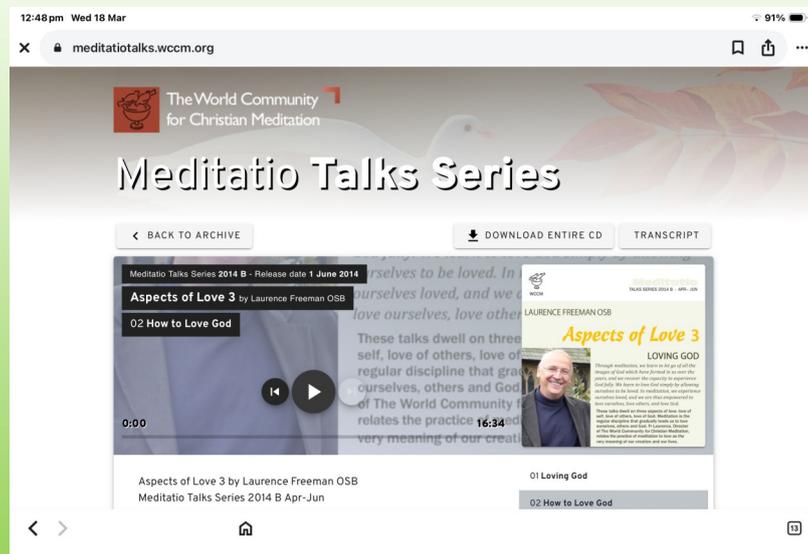


In the stillness of meditation, we let go of our fixed ideas, judgements and prejudices, which imprison us in our relationship with ourselves, with others, and with God.

Meditation teaches us that we can only love ourselves if we can accept ourselves. And we learn to love those close to us by withdrawing our positive projections or fantasies of them. We learn to love our enemies by withdrawing our negative projections of them.



Through Meditation, we learn to let go of all the images of God which have formed in us over the years, and we recover the capacity to experience God fully. In meditation, we experience ourselves loved, and we are thus empowered to love ourselves, love others and love God.



Calendar of Events for April 2026

School Holidays

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
<p>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p>		<p>1</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall</p>	<p>2</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>10-12pm Coffee & Discovery Speaker: Colin Elliot</p> <p>7.30pm Maundy Thursday service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY Public Holiday</p> <p>9am Good Friday service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS</p> <p>No Op Shop or Garage sale operating in April due to Easter</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>Remember to put your clocks back</p> <p>8am— Worship Includes Communion</p> <p>9.30am—Worship Includes Communion followed by Morning Tea</p> <p>KUCA in recess for school holidays</p> <p>6.45pm Worship Includes Communion</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room</p> <p>11.30am Care & Prayer Community room & church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>10am-12noon Women's Fellowship</p> <p>QUIZ</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p>	<p>10</p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Easter 2</p> <p>8am— Worship</p> <p>9am—Worship @ the Willow's</p> <p>9.30am—Worship followed by Morning Tea</p> <p>KUCA in recess for school holidays</p> <p>6.45pm Worship Community meal</p>	
<p>13</p> <p>9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall</p> <p>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room</p> <p>7pm SAMMT meeting Lower hall</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall</p> <p>10am-12noon Men's Morning Tea McKels Café Bella Vista</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p>	<p>17</p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p>18</p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Easter 3</p> <p>8am— Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship Followed by morning tea</p> <p>KUCA in recess for school holidays</p> <p>2-4pm—upstairs hall in use</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>	
<p>20</p> <p>9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower</p> <p>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room</p> <p>7pm SAMMT meeting Lower hall</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5pm-7pm Fusion Youth Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>ANZAC Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Easter 4</p> <p>8am— Worship Followed by morning tea</p> <p>9.30am—Worship Followed by morning tea</p> <p>KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8</p> <p>5pm—Shine setup from 4pm</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>	
<p>27</p> <p>Anzac Day Public holiday</p> <p>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>9.30-11am Christian Meditation community room</p> <p>7.30pm Property committee meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p> <p>10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop</p>	<p>Easter</p> 			

