

KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

EASTER WEEK FOLLOW UP



From the Church of England,

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Stay at home, continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable.

Join us for a recorded Service this Sunday 9:00 am on our website, Facebook or YouTube.

Easter two is the story about isolation and our need to be with each other to understand the full picture. It is also a story about touching and physical contact. Its so timely in our present situation. Using technology – high-tech or low-tech and thinking of each other an getting through this together is part of our Easter story.

John 20:19-31 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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

Livestreaming was a great success over Easter. We received lots of messages and positive encouragement. Good old-fashioned TLC linked with modern technology! A great recipe for bringing the message of Easter home!

The big 3 Events – Easter last week, Anzac Day ahead, Mother’s Day on the horizon! Corks to keep our net up! Know where we are heading together even though distance is between us, these key Events keep our hearts and minds close.

What can we do together when we are more apart? Make more of these occasions, going though these times, unites us from the heart, making us stronger together and links us through our faith in every day.

Looking forward to Anzac Day – lots of ideas in the basket - choose a couple of things to do that suit you and your families. We are surrounded by opportunities:

- In our gardens – cut a sprig of rosemary to wear or put in a vase, or add to lamb Roast; plant poppy seeds and they will flower for Remembrance Day. Friday 24th April there will be a bucket filled with fresh rosemary at the front of St Matthew’s gates, for you to take a branch, if you would like.
- Reflection time – remembering a few lines from an Anzac poem/song that really strike your chord
In the kitchen - baking Anzac biscuits as a family - giving our children a special memory of this time.

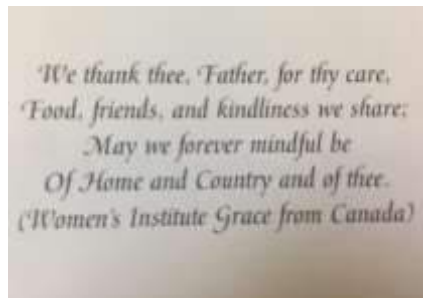


Beth (Sturton) Docksey’s Anzac Biscuit recipe from Home Economics, 3rd Form high school, probably from the Commonsense Cookbook - at least 47 years old. Beth and Graham were married in St Matthew’s – a match made in Heaven!

- Craft time - make red poppies – one to wear and one to share with our community - when out for a walk, collecting mail or essential shopping, tie to St Matthew’s fence (please practice safe social distancing) and watch the poppy fence of Remembrance grow. Poppies can be crocheted, knitted, felt cut-outs, plastic, paper plates – google for some great ideas!
- In the cupboard/ photo album family treasures/ memories taking us back to the memories when faced great challenges in the past and come through them.

Snapshot your activities and share with us by email, we would love to feature on Facebook, the website or the next edition of Keeping Connected.

So thankful for all the things we can do, reminding us to value each other and keep in touch. Use this time as a reminder of how precious opportunities are and to do something about it.



Keep tuned in to the radio ABC and 2AY

This Sunday would have been our CHILDREN’S CHURCH, special thoughts will be with all St Matthew’s Children and families. we will join in together at 10:00am by googling: youtubekidsblaststpeters

Shauna Noble, Minister for Children and Families at St Peter's Anglican Church East Lindfield (Annette Gorham's sister) is the creator of these sessions. There are 5 YouTubes of Kids Blast - children can watch any time! 'Kid's Blast' will be live each Sunday at 10:00 am.

STARS IN THE DARKNESS



*Hailey Wright – St Matthew's – Supporting the Good Friday Appeal for Hailey Wright raised over \$700.00 Great work! Thank you to all!



*Congratulations to Deb and Peter Davenport, and their family with the birth of their second Grandson Hudson James Davenport.

*Special thoughts and a big THANK YOU to all in the Medical Profession – Doctors, Paramedics and Nurses. All our schools – Principals, Teachers and Assistants and Childcare Educators.

*Special Celebrations:

Betty White – Happy 94th Birthday for 16th April; Helen Martin - Happy Birthday for 25th April.

OUT and ABOUT



SUPPORTING: The Albury Club – Fresh or Frozen Meals to go! Order online:

<https://www.milkkitchen.com.au> or phone Erika 0467257921

Cofields Winery Rutherglen – to order phone 0260333798 email: topdrop@cofieldwines.com.au

MEDITATION across the world and in Albury we are using new ways to stay in touch. There are growing numbers using ZOOM to connect with a meditation group at 5:30 each Thursday. At a time of great stress and isolation this could be just the tonic we need! Connect with Michelle and Paul on:

Zoom: <http://www.explorationinmeditationandprayer.com/>

PASTORAL CARE: The 'Phone Tree' is working well and is a great way to keep in touch. If you would like one of our team to phone you, or if you know of anyone who would appreciate being contacted, please contact Annette 0413938541. Through these difficult and changing times it is important we think of each other, and those who are sick and isolated, and pray for all.



TUNES ON TUESDAY continues at the usual time, every week online, please check our website for details.

CARING CLEAROUT! Please think of St Matthew's in the future – more people are going to be struggling and it will be even more important to be able to help. Please think about things for OpShop, Food Relief, Book Fair, Tip vouchers – St Matthew's is having a mass clearout as well! Please store in boxes, ready for when we can receive them.

PARISH FINANCES – All on board! Share the load! We all know that these days are very challenging for individuals' families and organisations. There is Government help for some, and we want to ensure we can see our way through this without huge crisis. There is something we can all do, if we all do a little, it will sort the problem, we can stop talking about it and it will be one less thing to worry about.

There is an urgent need for St Matthew's Parishioners to commence making direct deposits to the Church accounts if we are to keep St Matthew's afloat for when we come out the other side of the pandemic. So far there has been a great response, please keep up the great work. Without further contributions the Parish will not be able to pay Father Peter's wages and other fixed costs for April and beyond. Your assistance is urgently needed.

Bank details are:

Account name: St Matthews Church Albury

BSB: 032736

Account no: 392189

Reference: 'Giving' and your name

Please help us reach all our Parish Members: If any of your friends have recently got an email address, could you please send an email to St Matthew's Office, with their name and email address, so we can add it to our emailing list. We can no longer deliver printed copies.

REGULAR UPDATES - Please keep going back to the website, includes Livestream links and Facebook,