



# The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to our Sunday Service of worship,  
commencing at **9-30am** every Sunday



## Easter 2 16 April 2023



## Easter 3 23 April 2023

Welcome: Brian & Barbara Smith  
Flowers: Judy Law  
Coffee/Tea: Ken & Julie Lehmann  
Reader: Keith Picking  
Kids Church: Julie Lehmann  
Church Rep: Sherryl Smith  
Worship Leader: Ken Lehmann  
Speaker: Rev. Mike Fawcett

Welcome: Judy's Home Group  
Flowers: Cynthia Falconer  
Coffee/Tea: Judy's Home Group  
Reader: Cynthia Clive  
Kids Church: Kerry Lawson  
Church Rep: Raelyn Punch  
Worship Leader: Judy's Home Group  
Speaker: Judy's Home Group



### Readings from the Lectionary

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Ps 16  
1Peter 1:3-9  
Jn 20:19-31

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



## South Mandurah Uniting Church

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For pastoral needs please contact:

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Or any member of the Leadership Team

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Small Group Coordinator: Raelyn Punch  
Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)  
Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: [2davyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:2davyfamily@gmail.com)

Members of the Leadership Team: Raelyn Punch, Jenni Anderson (Secretary),  
Sherryl Smith & Andrew Telfer

Halls Head Bendigo Bank details for electronic transfers:

A/C Name: Uniting Church in Australia-South Mandurah Congregation  
BSB: 633-000 A/C No: 117072207

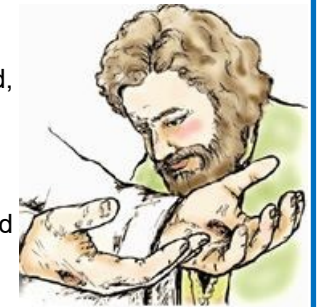
Please include your name as a reference for the payment.



*Our Vision: "United in Christ we reach out to build loving relationships that deepen faith and enrich lives."*

## Thomas (John 20:19-31)

If I were to mention the names of certain disciples to you and ask you to write down the first word that comes into your mind, it is unlikely you would come up with the same words. If I were to mention the name of Judas many of you would write down the word "betray" but not all of you. If I were to mention Simon Peter, some of you would write down the word "faith," but not all of you. If I were to mention the names of James and John, some of you would write down the phrase "Sons of Thunder," but not all of you. But when I mention the word Thomas, there is little question about the word most everyone would write down. It would be the word doubt. Indeed, so closely have we associated Thomas with this word, that we have coined a phrase to describe him: "Doubting Thomas." You may be interested to know that in the first three gospels we are told absolutely nothing at all about Thomas. It is in John's Gospel that he emerges as a distinct personality, but even then there are only 155 words about him. There is not a lot about this disciple in the Bible but there is more than one description.



When Jesus turned his face toward Jerusalem the disciples thought that it would be certain death for all of them. Surprisingly, it was Thomas who said: Then let us go so that we may die with him. It was a courageous statement, yet we don't remember him for that. We also fail to point out that in this story of Thomas' doubt we have the one place in the all the Gospels where the Divinity of Christ is bluntly and unequivocally stated. It is interesting, is it not, that the story that gives Thomas his infamous nickname, is the same story that has Thomas making an earth shattering confession of faith? Look at his confession, "My Lord, and my God." Not teacher. Not Lord. Not Messiah. But God! It is the only place where Jesus is called God without qualification of any kind. It is uttered with conviction as if Thomas was simply recognizing a fact, just as  $2 + 2 = 4$ , and the sun is in the sky. You are my Lord and my God! These are certainly not the words of a doubter.

Unfortunately history has remembered him for this scene where the resurrected Christ made an appearance to the disciples in a home in Jerusalem. Thomas was not present and when he heard about the event he refused to believe it. Maybe he was the forerunner of modern day cynicism. Maybe the news simply sounded too good to be true. Thomas said: Unless I feel the nail prints in his hands I will not believe.

**Continued overleaf**

## Thomas (continued)

Now I cannot help but notice that Thomas has separated himself from the disciples and therefore, in his solitude, missed the resurrection appearance. I think that John is suggesting to us that Christ appears most often within the community of believers that we call the church, and when we separate ourselves from the church we take a chance on missing his unique presence. But the story doesn't end here. The second time Jesus made his appearance Thomas was present with the disciples and this time he too witnessed the event. This time he believed. What can we learn from the life of Thomas?

Firstly Jesus did not blame him. Jesus knew Thomas alone had addressed him as "my God" and that he had been deeply affected by Jesus's death and that resurrection, both then and now, isn't something you see every day. Jesus preached forgiveness and devotion: He was practising what he preached. Perhaps more importantly he was teaching his disciples, but then and now, that we must move beyond doubt to faith. Only through faith can we move closer to our chosen Lord. Hallelujah.

[www.sermons.com](http://www.sermons.com) (edited)

## UnitingWA Cosy Toes Sock Appeal

Two years ago members of our church generously donated many dozens of pairs of socks for the homeless. UCAWA has launched a new appeal for socks this winter, explaining that:

- (1) Socks are the #1 requested item at homelessness centres globally and they're in short supply.
- (2) Many homeless people rarely take their shoes off and often have painful foot conditions which are made worse in winter if they don't have good quality socks.
- (3) New socks are needed for men, women and children in all sizes. People tend to prefer white sports socks, but all socks are welcome.



Please support this worthwhile appeal by donating new (preferably white sports) socks for men, women and children. They can be left in the box in the foyer.

For more information please contact Jenni Anderson M: 0429 120 658

E: [jenni.anderson@internode.on.net](mailto:jenni.anderson@internode.on.net)

## Just Because We Can't See It

A junior high school teacher was telling her class about evolution and how the way everything in the world was formed proved that God doesn't exist. She said, "Look out the window. You can't see God, can you?" The kids shook their heads. "Look around you in this room. You can't see God, can you?" The kids shook their heads. "Then our logical conclusion is that God doesn't exist, does He?" she asked at last, certain that she had won her audience over. But one girl from the back of the classroom said, "Miss Smith, just because we can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We could do brain surgery and investigate the parts of your brain and we could do a CAT scan and see the brain patterns in your head. But we couldn't prove that you've had a single thought today. Does that mean that you haven't thought anything today? Just 'cause you can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist." Seeing is believing, right? But, just because you can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

C. T. Powell, "Seeing Is Believing" (Edited)



## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who brought flowers for Easter Sunday. The church looked lovely. Thank you also to everyone who invited guests to attend the service. It was wonderful to have a "full house" to celebrate one of the most important dates on our Christian calendar.

Now for a challenge: can we fill our Lord's house every Sunday?



## A Quick Reminder: The New Website

As described in last week's Messenger, a new website is being developed for our church. In order to use photographs of church events on the website our church needs signed "media consent" forms from our members. If you have not already signed a form, please fill one out at church or email Raelyn for one as soon as possible. E: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)



## Coffee, Cake & Fellowship

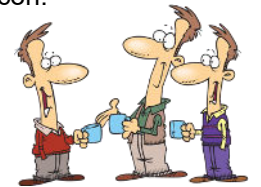
Neighbours, friends and family are very well welcome to join the ladies or gentlemen respectively for coffee, cake and fellowship on the following days:

**For Ladies: She Brews - 9-30am every Wednesday**

**Change of Venue:** Seven Trees Café, 11 Galbraith Loop, Falcon.

**For Gentlemen: Espresso Yourself - Change of date**

**Due to the Anzac day holiday, the gentlemen will next meet at 9-30am Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.** Coffee mornings will then revert back to every second Tuesday at the Taste of Italy Café, Peelwood Parade, Halls Head.



**For more information** please contact Peter M: 0427 685 908 or Raelyn Punch M: 0429 685 908, email: [prpunch@lasar.net.au](mailto:prpunch@lasar.net.au)

## Pastoral Care

For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

**Rev. Mike Fawcett**

M: 0412 243 677

E: [fawcettmichael176@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettmichael176@gmail.com)

**OR** Any member of the leadership team (their names are overleaf)



**Happy birthday**

**Grace Richards** Friday 21 April  
*God Bless and warm wishes  
To you upon your birthday*

**WELCOME**

*A very warm welcome is extended to any visitors. We trust that you will be blessed during this time of worship and invite you to fellowship with us after the service.*

