



Easter 2

7 April 2024



Easter 3

14 April 2024

Welcome: Keith & Jaren Picking
 Flowers: Kerry Lawson
 Coffee/Tea: Peter & Cath Salisbury
 Reader: John Lawrence
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
 Church Rep: Raelyn Punch
 Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
 Speaker: Yoy Alberastine

Welcome: John & Sue Lawrence
 Flowers: Sue Lawrence
 Coffee/Tea: Cynthia & David Clive
 Reader: Cynthia Clive
 Kids Church: Anita Alberastine
 Church Rep: Rev. Mike Fawcett
 Worship Leader: Yoy Alberastine
 Speaker: Cheryl Lim (Tear Fund)
 (Rev. Mike Fawcett - communion)



Readings from the Lectionary

Acts 4:32-35
 Ps 133
 1 Jn 1:1-2:2

Acts 3:12-19
 Ps 4
 1 Jn 3:1-7
 Lk 24:36b-48



South Mandurah Uniting Church

2-4 Rees Place Wannanup
 PO Box 5290 FALCON WA 6210

Website: <https://southmandurah.ucwa.au>

Email: sthmandurahuniting@gmail.com

For pastoral needs please contact Rev. Mike Fawcett M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Or any member of the Leadership Team

Pastor: Yoy Alberastine M: 0421 793 562 E: yoyea1210@gmail.com

Leadership Team Chair: TBA

Editor of the Messenger: Peter Punch 0427 685 908 E: prpunch@lasar.net.au

Prayer Circle Leader: Frances Davy 0488 906 280 E: 2davyfamily@gmail.com

Members of the Leadership Team: Yoy Alberastine, Rev. Mike Fawcett, Kerry Lawson, Sherryl Smith, Andrew Telfer & Raelyn Punch

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

It is optional whether you 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."



The Messenger

South Mandurah Uniting Church's Weekly Newsletter

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

Thomas

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 and Thomas said "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails

Continued Overleaf

Thomas (continued)

were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Thomas has been judged very harshly for that remark, but is this fair? Have you never doubted the word of a friend, let alone doubt the Word in the Gospel? Would you want to be condemned by your friends or every one in the world for those doubts? What sells more papers—the good news or bad news? Why is this?

Jesus asked God to forgive our sins, as he forgave us. Christianity is the faith of love, but are we acting in good faith by condemning the disciple who was the only one quoted in the gospel as saying “My lord and my God”? Let us look at the positives in our life, and of those there is one that exceeds all others: “He Lives!”

www.sermons.com (Edited)



Pastoral Visits & Open House

Pastor Yoy is at our church the first and second Saturday of every month from 9am to midday or by appointment in the afternoons. He would welcome the opportunity to share a time of prayer or a chat over a cup of coffee with you. Yoy can be contacted via email: yoyea1210@gmail.com or M: 0421 793 562.



Additionally, Rev. Mike and Ps Yoy are working on a plan to organise pastoral visits on a fortnightly basis. The visits will be on the after-noon of the men's coffee mornings. If you would like to arrange for a pastoral visit please contact Ps Yoy (details above) or Rev. Mike M: 0412 243 677 E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

Just Because We can't See it.

A year 8 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 an EEG 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 because 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)

How Often? A Prayer for Today

How often when weary do we sigh 'The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.'
How often when in prayer are thoughts distracted by sounds or circumstance, or prayers diverted by trivial concerns.
Baggage carried with us rather than left at your feet.
How often do we find ourselves apologising to you, for our abbreviated prayer life.
And yet you draw us still to be in your presence, as you did the disciples at Gethsemene.
You want us to share in your life, to play our part.
You told your disciples to watch and pray so that they might not fall into temptation.
Do you ask the same of us
and do we also fail you, each time we whisper 'The spirit is willing, but the body is weak'?
Grant us the strength, Lord,
of body and of spirit, to offer you the sacrifice of our lives
Amen



https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Easter.htm (Edited)

"100 of the Best"

Do you enjoy listening to Hymns, Choruses and Songs of Praise at home? John Lawrence has compiled a collection of YouTube videos that he has called “100 of the Best”. Most have display the lyrics on-screen inviting the viewer to join in and sing-a-long!!

This collection can be played on any PC, laptop and most modern televisions. If you would like a free copy, simply give John a thumb drive and he will transfer the videos onto it. For more information call John on M: 0427 029 584 or E: jslaw1@bigpond.com



Pastoral Care

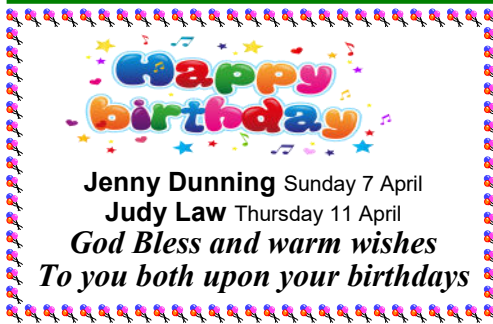
For pastoral care or spiritual guidance please contact:

Rev. Mike Fawcett

M: 0412 243 677

E: fawcettmichael176@gmail.com

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



Jenny Dunning Sunday 7 April

Judy Law Thursday 11 April

God Bless and warm wishes

To you both upon your birthdays



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.

