



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 16 April 2023



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning,

Our reading this morning, John 20:19-31 is a powerful reminder that doubts are natural and can strengthen our faith. This passage shows us that faith transforms our lives in three distinct ways: fear is transformed into peace, doubt is transformed into belief, and belief is transformed into faith.

The disciples were filled with fear and were in hiding behind locked doors, uncertain of what the future held for them. Jesus appeared to them, offering them peace. His presence brought them comfort and reassurance.

The same peace that Jesus offered his disciples is available to us today. We may have our own fears and anxieties that we face every day. But Jesus invites us to experience a peace that is not based on our circumstances but on our relationship with him. It is a peace that can only come from knowing that we are loved and accepted by God, and that nothing can separate us from his love.

Thomas was sceptical, analytical and questioning. When the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples Thomas was absent. When Thomas heard about the disciples experience, he insisted on seeing Jesus before he would believe. Thomas' doubt is completely understandable he hadn't had the same experience as the other disciples, he had just witnessed the brutal execution of Jesus and his grief and disappointment had likely clouded his ability to believe that Jesus was truly alive. But God came to Thomas and met him where he was, in his doubt, confusion and scepticism.

Many Christians today also struggle with doubts and questions about their faith. It's natural to have questions and uncertainties, especially when we are faced with difficult circumstances or challenging situations. But we can be sure in the knowledge that we have a God who will come to us and meet us where we are, in our doubts and questions.

The story of Thomas also shows us that doubt can be transformed into belief. When Jesus appeared to Thomas and invited him to touch his wounds, Thomas responded with a powerful confession of faith, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas' doubt had been transformed into a firm belief in Jesus Christ.

We can learn from Thomas' example that it is important to be honest about our doubts and questions with God. It is through this honesty that we can experience the transformative power of faith. When we bring our doubts and questions to God, we allow him to work in our lives and transform us into the people he wants us to be.

Our reading reminds us that doubts are natural and can strengthen our faith. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus transforms our fears into peace, our doubts into belief, and our belief into faith. May we be open to the transformative power of faith in our own lives, and may we bring our doubts and questions to God in prayer, trusting that he will meet us where we are and transform us into the people he wants us to be.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

What's Happening This Week

Sunday	Chaira Companions 1.30 Afternoon Tea at Mary's
Tuesday	Council AGM 7pm Elders/Council Meeting 7.15pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 8.30am KYB (CWC) 10am

Church Roster

Today

Next Sunday

Duty Elders	Elizabeth & Neil	Audrey & Robyn
Organist	Jill	Audrey
Greeters	Joan C & Robyn	Lorraine & Daphne
Bible Readers	Noah & Stephanie	Yesha & Lumiere
Morning Tea	Kristine & Stephanie	Sylvia & Pat
Hall Set Up		Brian
Cleaning	Aaron	Lorraine & Helene

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**

Church Building Security

We would ask everyone to please be security aware. If you are the last person/persons to leave the church building after a service or other event, please take a little extra time to go round both the church and the hall to ensure all doors and windows are locked, and that all lights, fans etc. are turned off. Thank you.

Other upcoming events for your diary

Focus Group 22 April 3pm
Craft Club 28 April 9am
Mens Breakfast 29 April 8am
Mainly Music 2 May 9.30am
Fellowship Lunch 10 May 11.45am
Messy Church 13 May 4pm

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South), then on to church hall for Carpet Bowls.

All men are welcome.



Craft News

Craft classes began again on 3rd Feb. Classes include knitting, crochet, patchwork, & card making. A charge of \$5 per person includes morning tea. There was an average attendance of 26 for the first term. A number of new ladies attended and we would love to see more newcomers.

Focus group for kids and adults

On Saturday 22 April at 3pm, we're inviting our young people and their parents/carers to join us for a focus group. As part of our regeneration journey, we're hearing from the community and about what we want the church to look like. This will be a brainstorming session to talk about what we like/don't like and ideas for the future. We'll also share some afternoon tea and games. If you'd like to come along and be involved please RSVP to Jane.

Seen on a sign at Moree Uniting Church

"If we cannot have what we like, maybe we can like what we have."

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 Account No: 10120762