



# BANORA POINTER

Easter Sunday 5 April 2026

A message from  
Rev. Aaron Moad



## **A Morning That Changed Everything:** *John 20:1–18*

Easter morning begins in darkness and uncertainty. John 20 tells us that Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb while it is still dark. She is not expecting resurrection. She is expecting grief. The stone has been moved, and the body of Jesus is gone. So, she runs to tell the disciples, thinking something terrible has happened. Peter and John come running too, trying to make sense of what they see: an empty tomb, linen cloths lying there, and a folded face cloth. At first, this is not hope. It is distress. “They’ve taken Him,” she says. At this point, no one understands. The resurrection has not yet become joy; it is still mystery and uncertainty.

## **A tomb that should have been empty but still surprised**

Even though Jesus had spoken about rising again, nobody was really ready for this. The empty tomb should have been expected, but instead it unsettles everyone. Mary assumes the worst. Peter and John inspect the evidence but still go back home unsure of what it means. The detail of the folded cloths quietly suggests that nothing chaotic has happened here. This is not a grave robbery; this is something intentional, something ordered, something beyond human explanation. Yet even with the evidence in front of them, understanding does not come easily. Don’t we sometimes stand in moments where God is already at work, but don’t see it? Easter begins in the tension between what we see and what God has done.

## **“Why are you weeping?” A gentle question**

Mary stays at the tomb, overwhelmed with grief. She sees two angels, but even their presence does not lift her sorrow. Then she turns and sees Jesus, though she does not yet recognise Him. She thinks that He’s the gardener, and if we’re honest, that feels familiar. How often do we miss the presence of Christ in our own lives? How often is it only in hindsight that we realise God was working in us, through us, or around us? It’s only later do we look back and say, “He was there all along.”

## **“Mary” When Jesus speaks our name**

Everything changes when Jesus calls her name: “Mary.” Recognition floods in. Not because she figured it out. But because she is known. Seen. Loved. That’s the turning point of the story. Grief becomes joy. Confusion becomes clarity. Despair gives way to hope. She turns fully toward Him and calls Him “Rabboni,” Teacher. The one she thought was gone is alive. The one she was grieving is standing right in front of her. This is one of the most beautiful moments in all of Scripture. Jesus is not just a risen Saviour in general; He is personally present. He knows her. He knows her name. And He calls her out of grief into joy. There is something deeply personal about resurrection hope. It is not distant theology. It’s encounter. It’s presence. Jesus still calls people by name today, speaking life into places where despair has taken hold.

## **From garden to going**

Mary clings to Jesus, but Jesus sends her: “go and tell” Resurrection is not meant to be kept to ourselves, it’s meant to be shared. Mary becomes the first witness of the risen Christ. From tears in a garden to testimony in the streets, her story shifts in a moment. That’s the movement of Easter—from encounter to witness, from receiving hope to sharing it. We are invited into the same rhythm. We don’t stay at the empty tomb; we go and tell what we have seen.

Easter reminds us that Jesus is risen, present, and personal. He meets us in our grief, calls us by name, and sends us with hope. We are never the same.

Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed.

**Grace and peace,  
Rev Aaron**

**MINISTER:** Rev. Aaron Moad  
Phone: 0411 325 527

**Church Office:**  
63 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW, 2486  
Phone: 07 5524 9035  
Email: [bpt.uchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bpt.uchurch@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **Today’s Bible Readings**

John 20:1-18

## What's Happening This Week

**Wednesday** Prayer Meeting 8am  
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am  
Fellowship Lunch 12 noon

**Thursday** Men's Bible Study 9am

## Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Robyn	Joyce
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Mel
Greeters	Joan C & Hazel	Denise & Tambar
Bible Readers	Robyn & Noah	Sylvia & Ellie
Prayers for Others	Elizabeth	Joyce
Morning Tea	Shirley T & Dorothy Mc	Sylvia & Hazel
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Nigel
Sound Room	Nathan	Ross
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Lorraine & Helene

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

## There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support, please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527 or Your Pastoral Carer

## 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 Shane Hambling 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

## Other upcoming events for your diary

**Church Council Meeting & AGM** 14 April 7pm  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 15 April 9.30am  
**Men's Breakfast** 18 April 8am  
**Chaira Companions** 19 April 1.30pm  
**Book Club** 21 April 1.30pm  
**KYB (CWCI)** 23 April 10am  
**Evening Bible Study** 23 April 6.30pm  
**Craft Club** 24 April 9am  
**Mainly Music** 28 April 9.30am  
**Elders' Meeting** 12 May 4pm  
**Fellowship Lunch** 13 May 12 noon  
**TCCEA Prayer Meeting** 19 May 4pm  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** 29 May 9.30am

## Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 8 April in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 6 April.



## End of Daylight Savings Time

Hopefully you remembered to put your clocks back by an hour and benefit from the extra sleep time! If not, well you can't say you weren't given a heads up (as per last Sunday's Pointer)!

## Easter Holidays recess

A number of our groups are in a short recess over the Easter School Holidays. These include - Craft Club, Mainly Music, Evening Bible Study, Book Club & KYB as far as I am aware. Please check with your group and/or note the dates in the *other* upcoming events section above.

