



riverlinks

Newsletter

April 2018

“This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many,”
he said to them.

“Truly I tell you, I will not drink again
from the fruit of the vine
until that day when I drink it new
in the kingdom of God.”

Mark 14: 24,25 ^{NIV}



Our vision: **“Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town,
Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside & Trevallyn



Easter and Faith: Thomas



The ten commandments aren't prefaced with "if you're in the mood"



The most valuable antiques are old friends



Give God what's right, not what's left



Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord



In a management training seminar when I was a school principal we had an exercise to show us that we all think differently and relate to others differently. It was a valuable lesson on how to manage a group of very diverse personalities. If we were to run the exercise among Jesus' closest followers and read how they reacted and related with Christ, we would see all sorts of differences in their character.

There's the petulant but quick witted Peter, always wanting to please Jesus. Then there's the devoted and caring Mary Magdalene. And then there's Thomas, "Doubting Thomas," who refused to believe in Jesus' Resurrection.

We meet Thomas three times in John's Gospel. The first is in Chapter 11, when Lazarus was ill in Bethany and Jesus resolved to visit him. The disciples did not want him to as it was close to Jerusalem. Last time the Jews had tried to stone Jesus, but the master was not concerned about that. Despite the dangers of returning to

Bethany, Thomas urged his fellow disciples to go with Jesus even though it might result in their death. And there was every reason for the disciples to be afraid. For it would be the raising of Lazarus that caused the Sanhedrin to decide that Jesus must die before he caused more trouble. A few days later Jesus would make his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

We next meet Thomas at the Last Supper, in Chapter 14. Jesus was explaining what was about to happen:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

The disciples had faithfully committed themselves to serve Jesus, but they did not understand who he truly was. And they did not understand

his real ministry, that of saving sinners. They wanted to know more about God. But they did not understand that in Jesus they were seeing God and that the only way to the Father was through Jesus.

Thomas clearly illustrates this lack of understanding: “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Thomas may have been willing to die with Jesus, but he did not understand what Jesus was about. A few hours later his bravery would vanish, for he fled with the other disciples as Jesus was arrested and taken for trial and crucifixion.

Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared before the apostles in the room that

Easter night. Possibly he was overwhelmed with grief. Possibly he blamed himself for convincing the other apostles to come with Jesus. But he had not deserted them. When he eventually arrived they told him the good news of the Resurrection. Thomas did not believe it. As they undoubtedly told him all they had seen, he was resolute. Until he saw the wounds to Christ’s body he would not believe!

There is something about Thomas that made him different from Simon Peter and from Mary Magdalene. Thomas was more solid and reliable than Peter, but he did not have that depth of faith in Jesus that Mary Magdalene had. He needed to be shown the truth himself. Do you know people like this? Do you recognise yourself in him?

The point in the training seminar was that we are all different. But each type of person is essential for an organization. It was so with the schools I taught in; it was with Jesus' ministry team; and so it is with ours. That is why Paul wrote about our different gifts of the Spirit.



Worry is like a rocking chair - it gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere



Always put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person too



Prayer is a spiritual exercise. Are you in shape?



Do you have
faith because
you have
seen me?
The people
who have
faith in me
without
seeing me
are the ones
who are
really
blessed!

John
20:29 CEV

I used to have no time for people like Thomas: stubborn, refusing to move forwards until they were absolutely certain it was the right path. I was more flighty, willing to jump on board a new fad and try it out. But Thomas had his other side. Who was it that had told the disciples to swallow their fears and go with Jesus to Bethany? I have come to see the good that such people bring to an organisation. I have known many Doubting Thomas'. They often act as a warning against rash and ill-considered action - against the Simon Peters of this world. They can be very frustrating, but they have their value.

Jesus thought so too. He waited a week for Thomas to stew on his stubbornness. Then he appeared in the room again, when Thomas was there.

Jesus did not scold Thomas. He told him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Jesus offered Thomas

the very proof he needed, and he immediately won him over.

"My Lord and my God!"

Thomas was back! And if the stories of his subsequent activities in ministry for Jesus are correct, then he remained solid till the end.

Jesus was not going to let this disciple fall away in despair or doubt. Jesus wanted Thomas to believe and he gave him the proof. What Jesus did for him, he will do for us. We all have had our doubts. We probably all have climbed onto our high horse the way Thomas did. Jesus knows what we are like just as he knew Thomas. And if we take our doubts, fears our concerns to him, he will be gracious to us, just as he was to Thomas.

Peter Cox



Bishop's Easter Message

Easter Sunday falls on April Fool's Day this year. I am guessing that for many, to speak about the resurrection of a man from the dead sounds like the ultimate April Fool's joke!

But what if for a moment you imagine it were true?

What if the ancient witness of those who visited the tomb of Jesus on that first Easter morning, who themselves didn't believe people could come back to life, was true? What if they really did see Jesus risen from the dead? What if someone has passed through death to new life? And what if, rather than being an April Fool's joke, this is the ultimate reality?

2.3 billion people in the world, including many scientists, have come to this



conclusion. This has reframed how they approach death and what they think happens to us when we die.

Each of us needs to have an answer to the question of what, if anything, is beyond death, if for no other reason than to make sense of life. Finding meaning can make facing the inevitable more bearable.

The Easter message tells us that it's not simply lights out. Easter is knowing that death is not the end of our story but rather the beginning of new life. It is the hope of knowing that our bodies will be resurrected too.

Our recent experience of the untimely death of some high-profile Tasmanians makes us aware of the fragility of our lives and reminds us of our own mortality.

Hope in the midst of death – it's no April Fool's joke.

I invite all Tasmanians to find hope in their local Christian church this Easter.

Bp Richard Condie



*Subscribe to
Bishop
Richard's daily
prayer points
with the
PrayerMate
App for your
mobile or tablet*



PRAY-MATE™

Riverlinks

April 2018	
1st Sun	<p>*** EASTER SUNDAY ***</p> <p>Messy Easter – 4:30pm at St Aidan's</p> <p>Combined Churches Easter Celebration – 6:30pm at St John's Launceston</p>
2nd Mon	<p>*** EASTER MONDAY ***</p>
3rd Tue	<p>*** EASTER TUESDAY ***</p> <p>(each Tuesday)</p> <p>Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town</p> <p>Home & Study Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1:30pm at Collings' home – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
4th Wed	<p>(each Wednesday)</p> <p>Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's</p> <p>Prayer Gathering – 12:00pm at St Oswald's</p> <p>Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside</p> <p>Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home</p>
5th Thur	<p>(each Thursday)</p> <p>mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's</p>
6th Fri	<p>(each Friday)</p> <p>Combined Churches KYB Study Group – 10:00am at the Baptist Church George Town</p>
7th Sat	<p>Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton</p>
8th Sun	

April 2018	
9th Mon	<p>Cadorna – 2:00pm</p> <p>Children's Ministry Training Evening – 7:30pm at Wellspring Anglican, Sandy Bay</p>
10th Tue	
11th Wed	
12th Thur	<p>Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's</p> <p>Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm</p>
13th Fri	
14th Sat	
15th Sun	
16th Mon	
17th Tue	
18th Wed	<p>Ainslie Service – 2:15pm</p> <p>MST & PC Meeting with Bishop – 7:30pm</p>
19th Thur	
20th Fri	<p>Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town</p>

The deadline for the May Newsletter edition is 22nd April

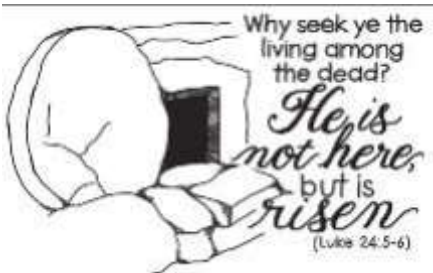
Calendar

April 2018	
21 st Sat	
22 nd Sun	CCCGT Combined Churches Service – 2:30pm at Catholic Church
23 rd Mon	
24 th Tue	
25 th Wed	
26 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
27 th Fri	
28 th Sat	CMS Prayer Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's
29 th Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St David's Riverside
30 th Mon	

May and other dates 2018	
4 th & 5 th May	CMS World Mission Conference at Wellspring Anglican, Sandy Bay
19 th May	Bible Forum in Burnie
1 st & 2 nd June	SYNOD
16 th June	TWBC North at Riverbank Christian Church, Riverside

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
1 st	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Easter	
8 th	10:00 am	Communion	
15 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
22 nd	10:00 am	Communion	
29 th	-	No service	
George Town			
30 th MARCH	9:00 am	George Town	Good Friday Redemption service
1 st	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	PPP Communion Communion
8 th	10:30 am	George Town	Together @ 10.30
15 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Morning Prayer ABU Uniting
22 nd	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
29 th	-	No services	
Riverside & Trevallyn			
30 th MARCH	10:00 am	Riverside	Good Friday At the Foot of the Cross
1 st	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
8 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
15 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
22 nd	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
29 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Riverlinks Together
Each Wed	10:00am	St Oswald's	Healing Service & HC
Peace Haven			
30 th MARCH	10:30 am	Good Friday Service	
22 nd	10:30 am	Communion	



Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au



The Parish Office
will be
CLOSED
from 5pm
Thursday 29 March
until 9am
Monday 9 April

Models Miniature and Memories
The Three Ms

**On display at the
Queen Victoria Museum,
Inveresk
24 March - 22 July 2018**



Celebrating the art of miniatures and focusing on our fascination
with all things small

Financial Position

OFFERTORY	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Year To Date 28FEB18	100,272	106,800
Profit/(Loss)		<u>(6,528)</u>
MTD March 2018	<u>10,229</u>	<u>13,350</u>
TOTAL	110,501	120,150

Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory contributions:

BSB 067 021 Account # 1000 6848

Name Riverlinks Anglican Church 8

He Understands and Cares

*Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering.*

Isaiah 53:4



When asked if he thought that ignorance and apathy were problems in modern society, a man joked, “I don’t know and I don’t care.”

I suppose many discouraged people feel that way about the world today and the people in it. But when it comes to the perplexities and concerns of our lives, Jesus fully understands, and He deeply cares. Isaiah 53, an Old Testament prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus, gives us a glimpse of what He went through for us. “He was oppressed and afflicted . . . led like a lamb to the slaughter” (v. 7). “For the transgression of my people he was punished” (v. 8). “It was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand” (v. 10).

On the cross Jesus willingly bore our sin and guilt. No one ever suffered more than our Lord did for us.

Jesus knew what it would cost to save us from our sins and, in love, He willingly paid it.

Because of Jesus’s resurrection from the dead, He is alive and present with us today. Whatever situation we face, Jesus understands and cares. And He will carry us through.

David C. McCasland
www.odb.org

Lord, we give thanks for Your knowledge of our circumstances and Your care for us.

Today we want to walk with You and honour You in all we do.

He is not here; He has risen!
Luke 24:6



Our Daily Bread.

In Christ alone!
- who took on
flesh,
Fullness of God
in helpless
babes!
This gift of love
and
righteousness,
Scorned by the
ones He came
to save:
Till on that
cross as
Jesus died,
The wrath of
God was
satisfied –
For every sin on
Him was laid;
Here in the
death of Christ
I live.

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Kirsten MacKinley is married to Dan and they moved from Edinburgh to Sydney in 2015 to study at Moore College. Last year Kirsten completed a ministry diploma at Moore, and she now works as an editorial assistant at Matthias Media. She loves reading, writing and all things grammar related.

This article first appeared at GoThereFor.com (a product of St Matthias Press Ltd)



Why Did God Answer My Half-Hearted Prayer?

Have you ever uttered a half-hearted prayer? I know I have. Many times. And isn't it all the more shocking when it's *these* prayers that I see God answer? It takes me by surprise, as if God only listened to my prayers periodically, or only when I was 100% earnest and focused in what I was saying—as if I didn't appeal to him on the basis of his Son and not my own performance, even my performance in prayer.

My most recent half-hearted prayer was to grow in thankfulness. A thoughtful Bible study leader encouraged me to choose one of the 'put on' qualities in Colossians 3:12-17 and make it the focus of my prayers that week. I complied and asked God to give me a thankful heart. But it was a bit of a token effort. I felt like I was going through the motions more than anything else, without really expecting anything to come of it. And to be honest, by this point I would have forgotten that I had ever even prayed those prayers

had I not noticed a curious change in attitude that prompted me to reflect on the cause.

For one thing, I noticed myself being grateful for the past actions of others. They'd served me in far more costly ways than I realized at the time. It was only now that I was being called upon in turn to serve others in the same kind of ways that I realized the cost.

Who knew that it was actually pretty exhausting to have guests stay with you for days on end? 19-year-old me certainly never considered that when I went to stay with my best friend's family for two weeks in America. Lucky them, I thought, to have me visit all the way from Scotland! It's taken the experience of living abroad myself to see that however lovely and considerate the guest, it still takes a real shift in the pace of life to have people stay in your home: cooking more (and nicer) meals... doing more laundry...

giving up time to take visitors out and about... remembering to shut the bathroom door... Yet my friend's family had welcomed me so warmly and never once let me feel like I was an inconvenience. I can only hope to be such a gracious host myself.

For another thing, it occurred to me that I had never properly thanked my husband and family for paying for our wedding. As a naïve graduate, yet to enter full-time work, I hadn't yet grasped how much that the money they'd given reflected their hard work, effort and conscientious saving. Now, I'm not yet being called upon to fund my child's wedding (I don't even have any children) but for the first time the cost of their generosity dawned on me—the things they'd given up or gone without for my benefit.

So here I was, being thankful for the loving actions of others, the weight of which I'd never felt before. Yes, it had taken some age and experience to have this perspective of thankfulness. At 25, it was the first time I've tangibly felt the

promised blessings of age and the arrogance of youth starting to flee! But actually, age and experience are no guarantee of a thankful heart. The years can embitter souls as much as grow them in thankfulness. Really, I had to credit this change to the work of God's Spirit on my heart, overriding my apathy.

I don't know why I was surprised that God answered a prayer for my sanctification. After all, that is God's will for all his people (1 Thess 4:3). A prayer for my sanctification is exactly the kind of prayer he would delight to answer, even if it meant walking me through seasons of life that I didn't particularly enjoy.

God is far more committed to my sanctification than I am. And I'm so glad that he is, or else I would surely stagnate in spiritual sluggishness, with no hope of holiness.

So watch what you pray for. In spite of our shortcomings, weaknesses and half-heartedness, our gracious God is in the business of answering prayer and shaping us into the image of his Son.

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs Bunny.

How are rabbits like calculators?

They both multiply really fast.

How can you tell which rabbits are the oldest in a group?

Just look for the gray hares.

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?

A Hot Cross bunny.



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0438 378 233

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3 Anne St
George Town
0439 821 038

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Peace Haven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

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Riverlinks Anglican
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for photos, articles,
etc. is 20th of each
month unless
otherwise stated



Harvest Festival at George Town

*Send photos of
your Parish events &
functions to
office@riverlinks.net.au
for inclusion in the
newsletter*

Prayer & lament with Bp Richard



Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

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Website

www.riverlinks.net.au