

## A HOPE THAT NEVER FADES

*(by Rev'd Maria Brand)*



Dear Friends,

We daily scroll through our newsfeed or turn on the nightly news to hear increasingly ominous and even frightening news. Ironically, in turn, we may even look to the same places; our phones or televisions, to provide a much sought after hit of dopamine and some momentarily joy.

Or perhaps, in search of memories of joy, we may look back to our childhood years with nostalgia. As you look back on your childhood, can you remember the wonder of an Easter morning? Eggs hidden in dewy grass, laughter and joy as you clutched a shiny

foil wrapped treasure that glimmered in the sun.

Of course, like so many of life's delights, these too are ephemeral, for laughter fades and chocolate eggs are quickly eaten. Yet these shiny treats are a visual and tactile expression of a hope that never fades and a joy that does not dissipate. The Apostle Peter writes, 'praise be to the God and Father of Jesus our Lord Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade'.

In a world where joy is momentary, this Easter, may we turn to Jesus, trust in His victory and be filled with the inexpressible and glorious joy that it is to be receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9) As we have been reading through Revelation as a church community, we have seen a point of view about what is happening now in our world that contrasts with the point of view oft presented in the news.



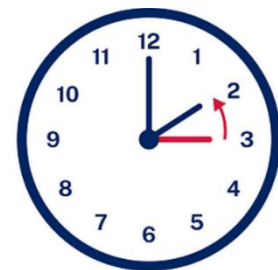


We have a powerful and loving God who is sovereign over the happenings of our world and is working out his good and glorious plans. We look forward to the end result of our faith, to the new heaven and the new earth, where God's dwelling place will be among his people and He will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away. (Rev 21:4)

May we as a community express a wide love and a bright hope as we share the good news of Jesus with those in our community. Who will you invite to join you this Easter and discover a hope that never fades?

## DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS: SUNDAY 5 APRIL

Turn your clocks **back** an hour as daylight saving concludes this weekend (*on the same weekend everyone is also encouraged to change batteries in their smoke alarms*).



## EASTER @GWAC (THURS - SUN)

# THE CROSS WAS NOT THE END OF THE STORY

- **Maunder Thursday/ Community meal** - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
  - 6pm, Foot Washing Service: A reflective service remembering Jesus' servant hearted love.
  - 6:30pm-8pm, Community Meal: Celebrating the First Lord's Supper: Gather around tables as we eat together and remember Jesus' sacrifice and the resurrection hope. *RSVPs have closed.*
- **Good Friday** - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10am: An interactive and creative service as we reflect on Christ's sacrifice and the meaning of the cross. With Hot Cross Buns for morning tea. **Speaker: Amanthi Lynch**





- **Easter Sunday** – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: Join us for our Celebration Services as we gather in the joy of the resurrection. **Speaker: Maria Brand**
  - 8am: A traditional service with the Lord's Supper
  - 10:30am: A contemporary all-ages service with the Lord's Supper, Kids Ministry and a 'Mega Easter Egg Hunt'.
  - 5pm: A contemporary service with the Lord's Supper, Kids Ministry and a 'Mega Easter Egg Hunt'.

### **GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY – WHAT TO BRING**

**Good Friday – Hot Cross Buns:** Please bring some hot cross buns to share after the Good Friday service. Kindly drop them off with the hospitality team in the GWAC kitchen before the service begins.

**Easter Sunday – Flowers for the Cross:** We will be decorating the cross with flowers as a visual reminder of the transformation offered through Jesus. Please bring small flowers from your garden to contribute.

### **REMINDER: CHANGE4CHANGE THIS SUNDAY**

Please bring your Change4Change jars this Sunday. Thank you for your generous contribution towards the Education Assistance Project (Mission of Truth Church, Surabaya). Alternately, you can also donate online with following details:

- Account: Glen Waverley Anglican Church, BSB: 033009, Account No: 108940
- Reference: change4change

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

### **CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY**

#### **FREE KIDS HOLIDAY ACTIVITY**

- **We'll be showing the Movie- "HOP!"**
- For Grades 1- 6 to be dropped off in our care from 2-4pm.
- THURS 16<sup>th</sup> April. Parents are welcome to stay for a Coffee/ BBQ /chat at pick-up.
- Registration is essential. Complete a form on our webpage: [HERE](#)





## CREATIVE FAMILY SERVICE AND COMMUNITY LUNCH

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY, 10:30am
- Special guests: SNACK MUSIC! This is an all-in service (no Spark that day) - a great day for inviting friends with kids / grandkids.
- Afterwards GWAC will provide a BBQ lunch, and we invite you to bring a plate to share of salad or dessert.

*(Anthony Wheaton)*

## IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY): TERM-2

Term 2's teaching at Ignite Youth will be looking at the much-requested topic of **Relationships!** We are really excited to unpack all that the Bible says about how we relate with one another in different contexts throughout our life. Plus, many fun nights in our community groups and some fun all in activities! Stay tuned for Term 2 programs coming soon!

This term Ignite will head to VCYC at Belgrave Heights on May 15-17. If you still haven't registered your youth for this encouraging camp with youth from across Victoria please get onto it ASAP. Go to [www.vcyc.org.au](http://www.vcyc.org.au) and click on the **Register Now** button for "Weekend #1" (May 15-17).

*Amanthi Lynch and Ignite Youth Leaders*

## SPECIAL IN APRIL/ MAY

### YOUNG ADULTS GAMES NIGHT SOCIAL

Join us for a relaxed and fun evening together!

- Friday 10 April, 7:30pm, GWAC
- Bring along: Games, Snacks
- Invite your friends!



## SYNOD ELECTIONS

Synod is the governing council or parliament of the Anglican church in Melbourne. It brings together bishops, clergy, and elected lay representatives to "walk together" (from the Greek "synodós") in discerning the mind of the church. At its heart, a





synod is the church gathered in council to make decisions about faith, order, mission, and governance.

GWAC has three elected lay representatives and one alternate lay representative. Synod normally occurs annually in October. It is held in the cathedral on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday evenings and all day Saturday. This is an important role so please prayerfully consider if you wish to nominate. **The election, if required will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April and nominations close Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Nomination forms are available in the Fellowship Area.**

### **THANK YOU! EASTER BISCUIT BAKE 2026!!**

A very big THANK YOU to all those kind folk who baked, counted and labelled the biscuits for prisoners. Don Reid was able to deliver the biscuits to Prison Fellowship on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The biscuits will be distributed to the prisoners just prior to Easter, with a Christian message. It will be the only home-baked food the prisoners receive while they are incarcerated. Thank you and God Bless you.

*Christine and Don Reid*

### **PREACHING TRAINING COURSE @ GWAC**

- April 22–May 20 (5 Wednesday evenings), 7:30–9:30pm
- Run by Bishop Paul Barker at GWAC
- This is a fantastic opportunity for current and potential lay preachers. This course would be ideal if you are thinking about or already engaged in any type of Bible teaching. **Please RSVP via a Connect Card**



### **2026 BCA VICTORIA DINNER AT GWAC**

- **Theme:** From the Ranges to the Ridge: Reaching North West New South Wales for Christ
- **Guest Speaker:** Rod Chiswell (Bishop of Armidale)
- **When:** Saturday 2 May 2026, 5:30pm drinks, 6:00pm dinner
- **Cost:** \$50 per person (Spit roast dinner)
- **Child minding:** Available (please advise) 9457 7556
- Register by 27 April: [bushchurcaid.com.au/events](https://bushchurcaid.com.au/events)





## DON'T MISS!

### **Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)**

EDI runs at GWAC on Mondays, 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium). The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome!

### **Train Your Brain (TYB)**

*TYB will not run on Sat 4 April (Easter week))*

### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April: 'Crafts of Care' - Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon**

- 1.30 - 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at GWAC
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church notice board for more details. All welcome!

### **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Mother's Union & Friends**

Mothers Union & Friends will meet on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1.30pm, Meeting Rooms 1&2. Topic for this month: *"Women of Faith in Action"*. Everyone welcome, afternoon tea.  
*Contacts: Lynn 0403 053 079, Robin 0419 611 085*

### **Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)**

Please join us on Fridays in Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

### **Friday Night Craft Group: Term-2**

- Fridays: 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May, and 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June.
- 7.00 pm until late, Fiona's place at 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley
- Bring anything you'd like to work on – knitting, crochet, sewing, paper craft, etc. Looking forward to seeing you tonight – pop in whenever you are free for a cuppa and a piece of cake.





## MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY: APRIL

### REGULAR MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

#### **Let's Learn English (LLE) Class**

Every Sunday: 12.30pm – 1.30pm, GWAC Meeting Room 1& 2

#### **Brothers' Fellowship Mandarin (on break during school holidays)**

Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room–3

Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao.

#### **Mandarin Discipleship Group (Sisters' Online, on break during school holidays)**

Every Thursday, 7:30pm–9pm

Contact: Ginger Chen

#### **Brothers and Sisters Combined Fellowship (on break during school holidays)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room–3

Contact: Ginger Chen

### LIFE CONNECTION GROUPS

#### **Joshua Group**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, 11:45pm – 3pm, in Meeting Room–3 or Chapel

#### **Samuel Group**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of April, after Sunday Service in fellowship area

#### **David Group**

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of each month, after Sunday Service in fellowship area

#### **Jacob Group**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, 12:30pm – 2pm, in Meeting Room–3 or Chapel

### PRE-SUNDAY SERVICE PRAYER MEETING

Sunday 9:45am–10:15am Meeting Room 3

Contact: Ginger Chen

### VOLUNTEER LEADERS TRAINING

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month at 7:30pm, we will have Volunteer Leaders

–Training online. Contact: Ginger Chen





## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

### Sunday Services: April

Easter Sunday		
5 April	Easter Sunday	Speaker: Maria Brand
Revelation Sermon Series: "Where is Jesus Today?"		
12 April	Revelation 17 - 19	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
19 April	Revelation 20	Speaker: Bre Wilkinson
26 April	Revelation 21-22	Speaker: Maria Brand

### Wednesday 10am Service: April

Lenten Series: "On the way to the Cross"			
1 April	Zech 9: 9-10 Luke 19: 29-40	<b>HOLY WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b> "Service & Suffering"	Speaker: John Harrower
8 April	Psalm 118: 14-24 Luke 24:1-12	"Questions & Answers"	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
Series: Joy in the Lord			
15 April	Philippians 3:17 - 4:9	The Command to Rejoice	Speaker: John Harrower
22 April	Nehemiah 7:73 - 8:12, Luke 10: 17-24	Joy in Understanding God's Revelation	Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
29 April	Luke 6: 17-36	Joy in Suffering	Speaker: Maria Brand
6 May	1 Thess 4: 13-18 Revelation 7: 9-17	Joy in Hope	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry

Blessings,

**Maria Brand** | Lead Minister (Vicar)

*A caring community making,  
maturing and mobilizing disciples  
of Jesus Christ, locally and globally*

