

PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ throughout the Pioneer Valley and in Worship Services at Walkerston, Mirani, Eungella*



18th April – 20th April, 2025

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If you have an enquiry, please phone one of the Elders

Elders: Morelle Coxwell 0448 111 265: Beth Higham 0428 583 158: Bruce Kerr 4966 6924: Lynette Gargano 0408 775 632: Colleen Brown 4954 5470

Church Council: Morelle Coxwell (Chairperson): Lynette Gargano (Vice-Chairperson); Michelle Wallin (Secretary): Kerith Noy (Treasurer).



8.00am Every Sunday

St Andrew's UCA

Bold Street

WALKERSTON



10.00am Every Sunday

The Valley UCA

Victoria St

MIRANI

EUNGELLA

No Services at present

EUNGELLA

Welcome, we are glad you have joined us in Worship. You are invited to join us for morning tea following the Service.

**MISSION DONATION FOR APRIL IS
PIONEER VALLEY SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY**

Good Friday - Selected Reading: John 18:1–19:42

Jesus is the one who takes up our fight—a fight for life itself.

Discipleship Thought: *Jesus' destiny in Jerusalem coincides with Passover — the Jewish meal that celebrated God's victory over the great tyrant Pharaoh, whose army was swallowed up by the Red Sea. This victory enabled the Israelites to be a free people, no longer held under the bondage of slavery. The*

story, known intimately, would trigger all the deep memories that defined them as a people. They would remember the terrifying destruction of Egypt's firstborn and their rescue through the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. They would remember not just the way God brought them to the land he promised them but also the way God gave them a new vocation and covenant at Sinai, a commission to be a people who showed the world what God was like.

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Prayer: O God, our wonderful God!

You show us what it means to fight for the most precious thing we have: life itself.

We praise you with humble awe and with endless gratitude for you, O God, have taken up this fight on our behalf.

You reveal to us a love most expansive, a love beyond our comprehension but not beyond our liberation.

We fall before you; what else can we say?

What else can we do?

Your love is everything, God.

Easter Sunday - John 20:1–18

Resurrection has changed everything: a brand-new week is underway.

Mary makes her way to the tomb. We are told that it is early on the first day of a brand-new week, so early that it is still dark (John 20:1). John here drags us into Genesis territory—a new beginning, new creative possibilities in the midst of the old. He wants us to know that something new is taking place that will involve impossible combinations—dizzying realities we can't make sense of on our own, especially while everything is still so dark.

We find Mary alone and in tears. She looks into the tomb one more time. She sees two angels who ask her, 'Why are you weeping?' Her sadness and grief so blind Mary that the presence of these two angels barely registers a response. Finally, she turns around and sees a man, whom she assumes is the gardener (another hint: we're in new Genesis territory again). This man is, in fact, Jesus, but she does not recognise him until he calls her by name: 'Mary.' In a flash of recognition and with all kinds of Isaiah-resonance (Isaiah 43:1–4), Mary is

transformed by the one who calls her name, this Jesus who embodies God's redeeming, saving love and who has somehow found a way through death itself. Resurrection has changed everything! Here, in the garden on this very first day of a brand-new week, Mary's tears are turned to joy, and her mourning turns to dancing. God has changed the story. The world is a new place.

Prayer: Risen Lord, on this Easter day, we sing out our praise: Hallelujah! You are alive!

We will never be alone!

We will shout out with glad hearts the story of your saving love and how it transforms our lives: Betrayal becomes forgiveness!

Fear becomes hope!

Death becomes life!

In your body broken and raised to life again, we ourselves are put together.

Hallelujah! Christ is alive!

We will never be alone!

Words for Worship CCLi 386034

Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations. Remember to uphold one another in prayer.



Pray for....Rick & Noela, Colleen W, Rod, Michelle & Families, Kathryn, Greg & Families, Marie & Families, Margaret H and Christopher, Margaret D, Glenda, Marion and Family.

....those we know who are unwell, awaiting diagnosis, surgery, treatment and test results.

We pray that God's Healing Hands continue to enfold Lyn, Frank, the two Margarets, Manda, Christopher, Gwen, Rick, Glen and the two John's.

....**individuals and families** who are feeling sad and lonely, the homeless, the bereaved and for those who have lost their employment and income.

....all who have lost loved ones and are struggling in their daily lives.

....**Ian and Lynns'** Missionary Work and missionaries all over the world and we give thanks to God that they are doing well.

....the support, comfort and medical treatment given by those who are part of **Pioneer Valley School Chaplaincy**.

....**safe travel** for all who are travelling during the school holidays. We also pray for safe travel for Ash & Nikhil as they return to India for a catch-up with family.

....**everyone who is being affected by the current weather conditions.**

....**new families** to join our Congregations.

....members of our **Church Council and Property Committee**.

....the Congregations and Ministry Teams of our local Uniting Churches - **St Paul's, Armitage, Calen, Iona West, Northside, Proserpine and Sarina.**

....Teachers, Teacher's Aides, Students, RI Teachers, School Chaplains and Students.

....for the soldiers at war, aide workers, their families, and all who are affected by the devastation of war.

....Reach Out Activities.

....those who are being affected by the ever-increasing violence in our community, in our nation and in other countries.

....the members of **Local, State and Federal Governments.**

....for the **emergency services members** and for the **counsellors** who care for the communities and people in crisis situations.

....**Scripture Union Queensland, School Chaplaincy and Mackay Street Chaplaincy.**



for....CQ Presbytery Minister - Rev Scott Ballment, Qld Moderator - Rev Bruce Moore.

....**our families and friends** and for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

....all **Lay Preachers, Retired Ministers** and **friends of the Parish** who give of their time and talents conducting Worship Services and Funerals across the Mackay District.

....**Alun and Lesley** and their commitment to our Parish.

....the many blessings we receive in our daily lives.

....the friendship our congregations share over morning tea each Sunday.

....for the joy children and grandchildren bring to our families.

....for the **volunteers** who give of their time and energy to work with the people in need.

....for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

A Little Humour: It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Annie stayed home from church with her mother.

When the rest of the family returned home, they were carrying palm leaves. Annie asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he rode by on a donkey," her father explained.

"Wouldn't you know it," Annie fussed, "the one Sunday I'm sick and Jesus shows up and offers donkey rides!"

Bible Verse: Thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou are my trust from my youth. Psalm 71:5

What's Happening Locally!?



	WALKERSTON			MIRANI			
Date	Preacher	Bible Reader	Prayers	Preacher	Bible Reader	Prayers	Laptop
GOOD FRIDAY							
18/04	Congregation	Kathryn	Kerith	Congregation	Various	TBA	TBA
EASTER SUNDAY							
20/04	Alun & Lesley	Neil	Alun or Lesley	Noela	Elsbeth	Manda	TBA
27/04	Congregation	Colleen	Gwen	Au	Beth	Bruce	Bruce
Please pray 'The Lord's Prayer' at the end of the Prayer for Others except on Holy Communion Sundays							

1. Jesus' hood
2. Jesus' beard
3. Soldier's hand
4. Plate in soldier's armor
5. Soldier's smile
6. Soldier's helmet
7. Soldier's collar
8. Soldier's shirt sleeve
9. Soldier's broach