

MAY PREACHING PLAN

May 4th

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Acts 9: 1 - 6 (7 - 20)
9.30 Denmark	E Burns	Psalm 30
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	Revelation 5: 11 - 14
11.00 Mt Barker	A Hortin	John 21: - 1 - 19

May 11th

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Acts 9: 36 - 43
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev E Sanderson	Psalm 23
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	Revelation 7: 9 - 17
11.00 Mt Barker HC	S Wilson	John 10: 22 - 30

May 18th

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Acts 11: 1 -18
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalm 148
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	Revelation 21: 1 - 6
11.00Mt Barker	Rev R Vertigan	John 13: 31 - 35

May 25th

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Acts 16: 9 - 15
9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Psalm 67
10.00 AUC	E Burns	Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22: 5
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 14: 23 - 29 or John 5: 1 - 9



THE ARC MONTHLY

*ALBANY REGION
CONGREGATIONS*

*Albany Uniting Church
Denmark, Lockyer, Mt Barker*



MAY 2025



*May the love of the Father,
the tenderness of the Son,
and the presence of the Spirit,
gladden your heart
and bring you peace to your soul
this day and all days.*

John Birch

Message from the Manse: After Easter

If you count easter Sunday as the first Sunday of Easter, then the next Sunday is the Second Sunday in the Easter Season. Christian churches – including the UCA – on that Sunday will often read the Biblical account of the disciples gathered in a house, eight days after the Resurrection. Thomas was somewhere else at the time. Eight days later, the disciples were again in the house, this time with Thomas present. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Thomas is the first disciple who identifies the risen Jesus as divine: 'my Lord and my God'. Because of this passage in the Gospel of John, the Second Sunday of Easter is called 'Thomas Sunday' in the Eastern or Orthodox Traditions. In fact, the entire week following Easter is to be set aside by Orthodox Christians for the celebration of the Resurrection. In 692 a Council in Constantinople decided that "From the holy day of the Resurrection of Christ our God until New Sunday (i.e. the Second or Thomas Sunday) for a whole week the faithful in the holy churches should continually be repeating psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, rejoicing and celebrating Christ, and attending to the reading of the Divine Scriptures and delighting in the Holy Mysteries. (...) For this reason, on the aforesaid days, by no means there be any horse races or any other public spectacle". In early Roman Catholic liturgical books, Easter Week used to be known as "White Week". The people who had been baptised at the Easter Vigil, the Holy night of Easter Saturday, wore white robes during the following week. These white robes were replaced by ordinary clothing on Saturday, in later years on Sunday. Another name for the second Easter Sunday is Quasimodo Sunday. This may sound strange, but this name comes from a chant sung on

DIARY DATES

- Thurs 8th MAY** AUC COUNCIL MEETING, Lesser Hall, 3pm
- FRI 9th MAY** SCOTS CRAFT STALL at CWA hall, Serpentine Rd .
Open 9am – 3pm. And enjoy a delicious morning
tea or a light lunch and say hello.
- TUES 13th MAY** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome,
- THUR 15th MAY** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea,
10am, Vancouver Café,
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
- SAT 31st MAY** THE QUIET SPACE – Ross Dwyer on guitar

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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:**AUC: Recording/**

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>Music</u>
<u>4th May</u>	D Hockey	E Verran	C Ferry	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	P Elms
<u>11th May</u>	A Gunther	W Dwyer	M Gunther	M Little/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	S Harris
<u>18th May</u>	D Hosking	M Little	A Tero	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	P Elms
<u>25th May</u>	D Coxall	C Ferry	C Ferry	W Dwyer/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	P Elms

Morning Tea: **4th May** *M Hannington* **11th May** *S Wood*

Lockyer only: **18th May** *J Thompson* **25th May** *S Wood*

Mothers

Real mothers don't eat quiche;
they don't have time to make it.

Real mothers know that their kitchen utensils
are probably in the sand pit.

Real mothers often have sticky floors, filthy ovens
and happy kids.

Real mothers know that dried play-dough
doesn't come out of carpets.

Real mothers don't want to know
what the vacuum just sucked up.

Real mothers sometimes ask "why me?"
And get their answer when a little voice says
"Because I love you best."

Real mothers know that a child's growth
is not measured by height or years or grades.....

It is marked by the progression of Mummy to Mum to Mother.

this particular Sunday.

In English the opening words of this chant are: As (in the manner of) newborn babes, alleluia: desire the rational milk without deceit, alleluia. 1Peter 2 tells the people to crave the Word of God: "The word / Word of God" (His revealed word in Scripture, as well as Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.) The instruction means that Christ followers must learn to crave the undiluted word of God, as a newborn craves milk. In Chile, on this Sunday the Fiesta de Quasimodo is a religious celebration. Processions are held, often featuring priests on beautifully ornated carts or motorbikes, and there are Huasos (Chilean cowboys) on horseback, who deliver Holy Communion to the sick. This tradition is mostly observed in rural areas. Pilgrims, robed in white, come to attend these festivals. In popular culture, Quasimodo is the central character of the French novel by Victor Hugo *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (1831) His name comes from Quasimodo Sunday, not the other way around! Born with numerous deformities, most notably a hunched back, Quasimodo is the bellringer for Notre Dame cathedral in fifteenth century Paris. His appearance causes others to treat him cruelly. However, he ultimately finds refuge in an unlikely love that is fulfilled only in death...

Another name for this Sunday is Low Sunday, which may come from the Latin 'Laudes' meaning 'praise'. Laudes is the opening word in the chant sung during Roman Catholic Mass just before the Gospel is read, the Good News of Easter. A different explanation for 'Low Sunday' may be that this day contrasts with the "high" festival of Easter itself.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter as *Divine Mercy Sunday*, based on a petition by Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska. This young Polish nun (1905–1938) had seen Jesus in a vision. Jesus asked her to spread a particular vision of mercy. She painted the image he



showed her. According to the diary of Kowalska, the feast of Divine Mercy celebrates the biggest promises of grace from Jesus: someone who goes to Confession (which may may take place some days before) and receives Holy Communion on the second Sunday of Easter shall receive total forgiveness of sins. This grace is similar to the grace received at baptism. In our tradition, we would call this grace 'receiving newness of life, dying and rising with Christ'. There are more religious celebrations on this Sunday, e.g. in Pagini, Italy, where the people have a procession for – and carrying a statue of – the Madonna of the Hens. (Please Google, if you want to know the miraculous story behind this event.)

In Eastern/Orthodox Christianity this Sunday is called *Antipascha*, meaning "in place of Easter". As mentioned before, it is also called Thomas Sunday due to the Gospel passage read in the Divine Liturgy on that day. Another name for this day in Eastern Christianity is "New Sunday". The Sunday Mass has many hallmarks of a Great Feast, despite not actually being one. For example, verses from Psalm 134 and 135 are chanted, referring to the all-merciful nature of God. The Gospel for that morning is read not inside the church, but from between the open doors.

Blessings, Corina

BITS FROM BARKER:

Easter has passed once again. We had a small but worshipful congregation on Easter Day. My son was able to visit from Perth, as did my daughter, and I enjoyed their company. Both will return home this weekend.

Our Annual General Meeting is to take place on 11th May, with some important decisions to be made.

We have been pleased to welcome a few visitors during the month which made up for missing a couple of our regulars. Carolyn spent some time in Queensland, to celebrate the 97th birthday of her mother with other family members, so it was a special time for her.

In feedback we have had, several people have commented about the talking inside Wesley up until the music starts. In broad terms they have noted that it seems odd/out of place or makes it harder or slower to settle into the calm atmosphere; some musicians have mentioned it as well, although of course without judgement and nobody is complaining. As organiser, I would only encourage everyone from the Church – as we are the hosts – to remember we're all involved in creating The Quiet Space. Not just by liaising with musicians, setting up, banking donations etc but by setting the example to create the atmosphere. So, by all means move around, talk if needed, drink from your water bottle – all this keeps the atmosphere casual and relaxed. However just keep the noise to a minimum by using low voices or step outside when needed. Don't worry – I find it hard to strike the right balance too! Thank you all for your kind support in coming along, encouraging us, spreading the word, and the many ways the Church community cooperates to provide what we now call a mental health community service.

Best wishes to all, Seb

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

What a busy month April turned into, particularly for Corina who conducted three meaningful services in quick succession, along with her usual every day commitments as she cares for her flock. She has certainly earned her time off so I think I can speak for all, in wishing her well as she leaves the wintry weather behind in exchange for the beauty of a European Spring. She has left us with a message of life after Easter giving us both a glimpse into the past with the different ways this period was observed and the traditions that followed, and also a reminder that once the joy of Easter Day is over, we don't just stop and shut ourselves away. We need to open our doors, not just to read the Gospel, but also to look around us, make the most of the opportunities that come our way and do our best wherever and whenever we can.

Clare Ferry

Wesley Music News – May 2025

Easter Sunday was a great day for AUC and Lockyer for music as well as our faith, with Patrick raising the roof as only he can. Personally, I took great pleasure in singing in a larger than usual congregation of almost 50 at my count, sharing it with my visiting mother and having her meet many of the AUC congregation. Yes, she loves music as much as we do and was so pleased to be here.

At the time of writing, we're still looking forward to Michael Goldschlager playing at The Quiet Space on 26 April, the first time he provides the ambient soundscape for our restful reverie. Then on May 31 we welcome back Ross "Rosco" Dwyer from Denmark with his famously tight guitar skills. Many of us know Ross from rock, jazz and Latin bands as a rhythm section guitar player around the region—that is, playing chords and accompaniment rather than prominent solos. However, when he gets going on his own, you'll hear why we asked him back. He is also friendly and approachable so feel free to introduce yourself and ask him about his music after he finishes.

Any Quiet Space regulars may also have noticed that the music winds down to silence at one point. This is not an accident – we trialled this in February as the only musical specification given to the artist, as a kind of focal point for the stillness, or "eye of the storm". The problem was that in modern society it's hard to be completely still unless you're a practised meditator (!). The idea was that the music can ease us down to a certain level of calm, which makes it easier for us to step down further into a stiller state, without even the music, for a few minutes. This can enhance whatever effect we personally experience. We found that while newcomers who aren't familiar with the concept found it disconcerting, it did have the desired effect for those of us who are familiar with it. So far, no feedback has contradicted that, so if you have any, please don't hesitate to share it with us at mrsebastianharris@gmail.com. We intend to update the info handouts given out at the door to explain this in the next revision.

Nita was away one Sunday and we sang without music. This proved the importance of having musical accompaniment!

Blessings, Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS:

We, Anne and Alan, have been away for the month of April. So, we are not so much au fait with what has been happening at Lockyer Uniting Church. We do know that Sue Wood is now in Adelaide visiting her daughter. And there was the Maundy Service on Thursday at Lockyer during Easter which Joan Wright attended, much to the delight of her friends who had not seen her for quite some time.

We enjoyed our trip, and I will take the liberty of writing about our sojourn, cruising down the Mekong River, from Cambodia to Vietnam. We firstly landed in Siem Reap in Cambodia. Always advised to use bottled water and not use the ordinary tap water. The boat journey itself was through amazing countryside, and we could see fish farming in progress, amongst other varied types of farming.

Our tour guide, an ex-Buddhist monk, was excellent and took us, in a group of 22, to see many temples. In the end it was ABT (not another bloomin' temple) but all were different and enjoyable. The people were so lovely, always helpful and generous. And yet there was so much subsistence living, so many really poor people, and yet they were generally happy.

I have never seen so many motor bikes/scooters (60,000,000 in Vietnam!), and the traffic seemed to abide by no rules. See an opening, even at crossroads, and go for it and squeeze in.

We fully recommend for anyone to visit these countries – it is another World, and a beautiful World of our God. Albeit so many people who just live day to day and without so many conveniences which we take for granted.

Cheers, Alan

PRAYER PROMPTS: Please continue to keep Allan and Judy in your prayers, also Maurice and Helena Fong. Corina will be on long service leave from 5th May until 6th September so please pray for the lay preachers needed to fill the gaps in the preaching plan during her absence. Corina is using her time to be with her father in Holland. It will be a precious time for both so include them in your prayers along with others who have relatives in far-away places. Doreen Keding is settling well into her new lifestyle at Craig Care but the Vertigans are still waiting on repairs to their home. Pray for patience for them as they adapt to the changes in their circumstances. Please still keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and also pray for some common sense in the White House in America! It leaves me feeling very uneasy when it comes to our national security.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: The list of items we need for the shoe boxes changes as donations are received. Sincere thanks to Jeff and Sandra Hall who purchased all the tennis balls we needed and we also now have enough marbles. Thanks also to Keith Noakes who has made more of the little wooden toys for the 2 – 4 boxes and to Maria who has made some of the bags we need. You folks are great and make our job so much easier! We are doing well with undies and now only need 6 pairs for 2-4 girls, 18 pairs for 2-4 boys, 6 pairs for 5-9 girls and 15 for 10-14 boys. We could do with more stickers and still need more combs, also toothbrushes, so that we can be generous with them, putting more than one in each box. We can no longer put in soap so we will use the face washers and hankies, sewn by Wendy, to wrap a comb and several toothbrushes, as we have been told that they are shared with the family. I also wish to thank Beth Blight as she has donated some of her lovely painted porcelain items for me to sell on my CWA stall for the shoeboxes.

As Samaritan's Purse is the parent body for the Shoebox Appeal, I'll finish with an article from their latest newsletter.

God bless, Edith

RESTORING RESILIENCE IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

Dear Friend,

The town of Ingham, in northern Queensland, has been devastated by some of the worst flooding anyone can remember. Days of storms turned streets into rivers, destroyed homes, and upended lives. In the face of this destruction, Samaritan's Purse is on the ground, working shoulder to shoulder with local churches to bring hope and help in Jesus' name. Our Australian Disaster Relief volunteer teams mobilised quickly to serve the hurting people of Ingham. We're helping families clean out their



homes, remove mud and debris, and begin the long road to recovery. More importantly, we are praying with them, listening to them, and assuring them that God hears their pain.

The bible tells us in Micah 6: 8 that the Lord requires us "*to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" That's exactly what our teams are doing – showing the love and mercy of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering.

I've been to Queensland in years past to preach the Gospel, and our hearts are breaking for the people of Ingham. Where I live in North Carolina, we know first-hand how devastating floods can be. But I also know that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46: 1).

Please continue to pray for the people of Ingham. Ask God to work through Samaritan's Purse teams to help meet the emergency needs and help residents find hope in Christ.

Thank you, may God bless you.

Sincerely, Franklin Graham