

Parish Life

MAY 2017

The road from Easter to Pentecost



On 4 June we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. This is often an unappreciated festival in the Church. But not at St Luke's. For us, it ranks only behind Easter and Christmas in its significance.

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Pentecost commemorates the founding of the Church, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' disciples after his resurrection. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter Day; hence its name.

The contrast between the despondent women at the empty tomb on Easter Day and the Spirit-filled disciples at Pentecost could not be more stark. On the day of Pentecost the disciples received the sacred promise of Christ. They had been his closest followers. They had lived, travelled, walked and eaten with him for three years. But they still needed a vital encounter with him through the Holy Spirit. And now they were ready to offer themselves unreservedly to him and his service.

As we journey on from Easter, we can prepare our hearts for Pentecost. As a parish family on Pentecost Sunday, we pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us afresh with the gifts of his presence.



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.



Acts 2:1

WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost

Good Friday and Easter services

Our Good Friday services began with the solemnity of the Proclamation of the Cross, and later at noon, the Stations of the Cross.

Then on Easter Day over a hundred people gathered at the Balmoral Rotunda for our family Communion Service early on Easter Day. This service has been held by St Luke's at the beach each Easter for over forty years. St Luke's supports Taldumande with its Easter Balmoral family communion offertory. This year we have again sent \$1000 for their work.

For a more traditional service, almost 200 people joined in the 10am Sung Eucharist at St Luke's.



*The Cross of Christ
The Cross on which our Lord was hung*



*Christ is Risen, Alleluia.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*



In his Easter sermon, the Rector reminded those present that at Easter, one of the central events and beliefs that we celebrate, is the transformation that has been brought about by the love of God, for humanity, through Jesus. He said, "Jesus's whole life achieved this: his Incarnation; his birth by Mary; his growing-up; his adult ministry and teaching; his Passion and obedience; and ultimately, his death at Calvary. All of this life and work of Jesus and the transformation it brings are vividly symbolised and manifested in the Resurrected Jesus.

Humanity and the world cannot undo the Resurrection and go back pre-Resurrection. All the things that ultimately separated us from God, are overcome – and the Resurrected Christ demonstrates this. All things in creation that were to be completed and perfected, are perfected – and the Resurrected Christ reveals this.

There has been an altering of cosmic proportions. God has fully shared our humanity so that we can partake in God's divine glory. And at Easter, we celebrate this cosmic change that has taken place by virtue of God's love for us, manifested in Jesus, now resurrected and victorious".



Fun and fellowship supporting missions



ABM – Revd John Deane, Director, Economic Projects in the Philippines

St Luke's links with ABM go back to 1937 when our Rector, Canon Ernest Cameron, invited the then Chair, Canon J S Needham to visit the parish. Later Rectors have also been involved serving on the ABM Board and Committees. And Linda Kurti was ABM's first female national Director 2005–2008.

ABM works through the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the only predominantly Christian country in SE Asia. Working with Episcopal CARE, ABM's Economic Empowerment projects help communities and individuals to determine their own future and build livelihoods. In this largely agricultural country, ABM programs seek to build self-reliant communities.

The present Executive Director, Revd John Deane, has spoken with the Rector about projects St Luke's could support. Some involve coffee, corn and taro chip production. We look forward to John visiting us to give us first hand information on projects our contributions will support.



A Night at the Captain's Table

Dance the night away!

Enjoy an evening of fine dining, fun and frivolity and support our mission outreach

Date: Saturday 22 July 2017

Time: 6pm for 6.30pm start

Venue: Seddon Hall, St Luke's Parish Centre

Dress: Smart Casual, Black Tie or Fancy Dress

Tickets: \$50 includes two complimentary raffle tickets

Raffle tickets can also be purchased separately \$5 each or 3 for \$10

Dinner and raffle tickets on sale from the Parish Office from 12 June

The sumptuous menu includes soup du jour, choice of two main courses, a cheese board and desserts, plus tea, coffee. BYO drinks

Come along and join a table or organise a table of 8



Proceeds from the dinner will go to our mission outreach initiatives for 2016–17.

We are supporting three Anglican missions, local, national and international. Locally, we support Revd Francis Chalwell, who works in northern Sydney for Anglicare Sydney's Social Support Group Chaplaincy. Nationally, we support Bush Church Aid's Indigenous Ministry, particularly the work of Revd Neville Naden and his wife Kathryn in Dubbo. Internationally, we support the Australian Board of Missions' Economic Empowerment Projects in the Philippines.

...Lest We Forget

Our Anzac observance, led again this year by Brian Miles, was held during the morning service on 23 April.

Holding a sprig of rosemary Brian said:

*The hour has come for rest.
This rosemary is an emblem
of sacrifice,
The symbol of life offered in
the service of one's country is a
link between our comrades and
us who remain.*



After a period of silence, *The Last Post* was played and Brian read the *Ode of Remembrance*. Our Anzac observance finished with the playing of *Reveille*

In his sermon, our Associate Priest, Peter Kurti, focused on Christ's words, *Peace be with you*. Peter reminded us that each week we exchange the Greeting of Peace, but then "we head back out feeling peaceful – for the most part – into a world that doesn't seem to know peace."

He reminded us that our parish community "is shaped by Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit... When we love one



another, as Jesus loves, we reveal God to the world. By revealing God to the world, we make it possible for the world to know the God of limitless love and to live in relationship with God." He urged us to remember that "all we have to do, all we **can** do, is point the world towards God".

A special event: Naming of Seddon Hall

On Easter Day, parishioners gathered for a special event in the Parish Centre, the naming of the **Seddon Hall** in honour of our long-serving fourth Rector, the Reverend John Seddon. John, who had taken part in the Easter Service, attended the naming ceremony with his family.



Some coming events

- 4 June** Festival of Pentecost
Mission Mini Market
- 17 June** ICC Hymnfest
- 22 July** Parish Dinner
- 16 Sept** 120th Anniversary
Elegant Afternoon Tea
- 22 Oct** Patronal Festival and lunch

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St Luke's is a place of rich and diverse liturgy, where life and faith connect.

We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation or religion.

We support the full and equal role of women in society and in the ministry of the church.

The Parish is in association with the Mosman/Neutral Bay Inter-church Council and the NSW Ecumenical Council.

To stay in touch at St Luke's, check the weekly pew bulletin regularly, read the quarterly *Parish Life*, check our digital noticeboard in Bridgepoint and our website www.stlukesmosman.org and follow us on

