

Parish *Life*

APRIL 2019

Lent – a Season to Return to God and Prepare for Easter

Most of my generation and younger, have their mobile phones and other devices plugged in, and turned on all the time. If we want to, there's constant stimulation – lots to keep us amused. So where do we go to be away from distractions? To be alone, to consider our lives?

In Luke 4: 1-15 we find Jesus in the desert, preparing for his ministry. The desert or wilderness has been traditionally used in literature, to describe a place for people to escape from the temptations and distractions of the world; a place to go to think about their lives. It also describes a time of hardship and testing. It's forbidding, silent, dangerous, empty – which is why we start our Lenten journey here.

Having answered the call to repentance on Ash Wednesday, we begin the Lenten journey with the story of wilderness people in Deuteronomy 26:1-11 which reflects Luke's account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. 40 years in the desert for the Israelites, becomes 40 days for Jesus, where he comes face to face with the best the devil can offer. Jesus' temptations mirror the great temptations we may confront on our journey with him. The temptations are basically three sides of idolatry: the worship of comfort and gratification;

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ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MOSMAN

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER 2019

GOOD FRIDAY

9am Good Friday Liturgy

12noon Stations of the Cross

EASTER DAY

7am Balmoral Rotunda Service

10am Easter Day Eucharist (at Church)



Cnr Ourimbah Rd. & Heydon St. | www.stlukemosman.org

Lent – a Season to Return to God and Prepare for Easter

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undeserved power and wealth; and false gods. Jesus cuts Satan down to size, using carefully selected laws of Deuteronomy as his weapons, sacred laws that reaffirm his absolute loyalty to God.

What is Lent? There is evidence that some Christians in the years immediately after the first Easter fasted for 40hrs between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, but the custom of spending 40 days in prayer and self-denial did not arise until later. The early church announced a season of Lent, from the old English word *lenten*, meaning “spring” – a reference to the northern hemisphere season, and an invitation to a “spring clean” for the soul: a way of finding out what we simply cannot do without.

To enter the desert is to leave behind the things that comfort us, that make us feel secure. During the 40 days of Lent, pay attention to how often your mind travels in the direction of security. Ask yourself why and when it happens? What’s really going on when you start craving a chocolate? Are you hungry? Well, what’s wrong with that? Are you lonely? What is so bad about being alone? Try sitting with the feeling for a while instead of fixing it and see what you find out.

Chances are you’ll start to rationalise turning to the thing that comforts you. “It won’t matter if I cheat a little” we say, “If God really loves me, he’ll understand.” It’s comforting and encouraging to note that Jesus was challenged too, with the same challenges that face us on our journey of faith – the worship of comfort and gratification; undeserved power and wealth; and false gods.

To start our Lenten journey we need to unplug, focus and miss out on some things. And Jesus found that a desert is a great place to do that. Even if we have never been to a desert, we know what to expect: extreme temperature, little food or water, stillness, silence, solitude. We all understand that times of great extremity can bring what we really value into focus. When the props of life are stripped away, what’s left is for us to turn to someone who has the power and the understanding of our predicament. We turn to God.

It’s impossible to achieve this focus if we are always distracting ourselves with endless things that demand our attention. It’s not easy to stop; there’s always work to be done. The only way to do this, the only way to slow down, is to believe that we are not doing it alone.

When the Hebrew people left Egypt, God guided them. During their wanderings, they complained, they worshipped other gods, they reminisced about the abundant food they had when they were slaves. But though they made mistakes, God was always there to lead them back. If they hadn’t kept on, they would never have reached the place where they belonged.

Jesus didn’t go into the desert alone, either, but was “led by the spirit”. And if he’d acceded to the temptations that he was offered, he would have turned away from his true glory. By showing his dominion over the world, he could also show that he had dominion over death.



In our plugged-in society with constant noise and an overwhelming desire to conquer the conditions in the desert, where do we go to be away from distractions? We fear missing out on that update, that new bit of gossip or news or stimulation. But... do you know what we are actually missing out on? We are missing out on stillness and silence and listening to God.

Jesus went to the desert to get away from the constant stimulation that was his world at the time. This Lent, we like Jesus are called to go to the desert, to be still, unplug, and listen to God. Let’s take time away from distractions and find our desert. Let’s challenge ourselves to understand God’s place in our lives. Like Jesus we will not be alone. We’ll have the power of the Spirit to guide and challenge us.

Natalie McDonald
Lay Minister

St Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc

A Youthful Extravaganza!



The St. Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc. 2019 Youth Concert was brim full of superb talent from dedicated musicians, with ages ranging from 8yrs to 16yrs. On Sunday 24 February 2019, an audience of over 100 people seated in the Grand Hall of the Mosman Arts & Crafts Centre, were treated to a didgeridoo player, dancers and wonderful instrumentalists.

The concert was opened and closed by Mayor Carolyn Corrigan. Jim Coyle, music educator, composer and conductor, was Master of Ceremonies and James Fortune, the accomplished accompanist. From the reaction of the audience, performers, parents and music teachers, a 2020 concert beckons – and promises to be another great experience!

Jeannette Lawrence

for the St Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc. Committee

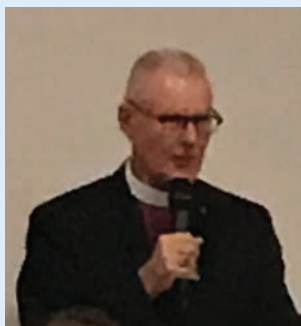


Anglicans Together Annual Dinner 2019

This year's dinner was held on Tuesday 19 March at the Gadigal Room, City Tattersalls Club.

The Guest of Honour was The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia. Archbishop Freier spoke on the topic "Holding to the Common Good in a Divided World".

Archbishop Freier said: "We are the Church for the whole world – this is God's choice, not ours. This is critical to how we engage in community service. There is a tension between sectarianism and the common good, between tribalism and the whole community. Jesus' mandate in the



Sermon on the Mount is a mandate of service to the whole world."

The Primate explored holding the common good in a divided world with particular reference to the community service of Fr Gerard Tucker, founder of the Brotherhood of St Laurence,



which is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that is working toward an Australia free of poverty. The Brotherhood of St Laurence seeks to drive change to ensure that in Australia we have a compassionate and fair society where everyone has a sense of belonging.



Above left: The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier

Above right: Fr Max, Greg Haustorfer and Denise Thomas

Bottom left: Phillip Seale, Alyson Wills and Paula Turner (Wardens)

Bottom right: Chris Thomas and Damien Bastock

St Luke's Walking Group



Walking in company through the natural environment is a way of achieving oneness with nature – there's a spiritual dimension to it. It's also a lot of fun. With that in mind, I proposed forming a walking group at St Luke's when I joined the congregation in June 2017. Fr Max agreed. We managed four walks in 2017 and another four in 2018. All walks were on a Saturday morning and attendance varied from 3 to 10 people. Most of the walks were 5-6 km (around two hours)

and each ended at a really nice coffee spot. I reconnoitre all walks, usually with support from Rod Barltrop, whose ideas and guidance are much appreciated. In 2017-18 we explored:

- Balmoral to Spit return
- Balmoral to Middle Head return
- Rawson Park to Sirius Cove via Clifton Gardens
- Willoughby Bush Trails
- The Two Creeks Walk – Lindfield
- Clontarf Loop
- Narrabeen Lake Loop
- North Head Loop.

The 2019 program includes: South Head; Mona Vale to Narrabeen; and Balgowlah Bushland. We may also consider walks farther away (e.g. Blue Mountains highlights and trails in Ku-ring-gai Chase). All suggestions and offers of leadership support are welcome: davehen22@gmail.com or 0413 265 652.

Thank you to all who have joined us on our walks, so far. Looking forward to walking together again through the year.

David Henry
Walking Group Coordinator

DIARY NOTES APRIL 2019

14 Palm Sunday

- 9am Sung Eucharist
- 12noon Pub Lunch
- 3pm Jazz Legends in Concert

18 Maundy Thursday

- 11am Holy Eucharist
- 7pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and Washing of Feet

19 Good Friday

- 9am Good Friday Liturgy
- 12noon Stations of the Cross

21 Easter Day

- 7am Balmoral Rotunda - Easter Eucharist
 - 10am Easter Day Sung Eucharist at St Luke's
- (followed by chicken sandwiches and bubbles in the Lower Hall)*

Those who can't make it on Saturdays could join in reconnoitring ventures during the week. Please let me know if you are interested!

Come along and enjoy....

St Luke's Film Group, which meets in the Lower Hall of the Parish Centre (or sometimes at the Hayden Orpheum) on the last Saturday of the month, from February to December, to watch a movie and share in a light meal together.
(Phillip Seale Mb: 0405 198 420)

Thank God It's Thursday, which is held each Thursday in the Lower Hall during school terms. It runs from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Anyone who wishes to pop in is very welcome to do so and enjoy fellowship over light refreshments.
(Vivienne Menzies Hm: 9953 8028)

Blokes' Night, which is held on the first Wednesday of the month, often at the Upper Duck (Hotel Mosman) from 6pm.
(Clive Taylor Mb: 0419 243 114)

Girls' Night, which is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6pm, meeting sometimes at the Lower Duck (Hotel Mosman) and sometimes at alternate venues.
(Paula Turner Mb: 0421 151 290)

Pub Lunch, which is held on the second Sunday of the month at the Lower Duck (Hotel Mosman).
(John Leaver Hm: 9960 4157)

Remember you can
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on  and 


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.

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Phillip Seale, Max Wood

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  and 