

Parish *Life*

SEPTEMBER 2019

Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Extract of the Sermon by Guest Preacher the Reverend Leigh Gardiner at St Luke's, 18 August 2019

When I was teenager I was an active, passionate Christian involved in leadership of our Inter-School Christian Fellowship group and Bible studies, part of a youth group etc. In my mid-20's I went off on a prodigal journey for a few years. During that period of deliberately turning away from God I also travelled, and it was while I was living and working in London that I came back to God. The church where that happened was a Baptist one and since my return to Australia I've worshipped and worked in a Uniting Church congregation, a Baptist Church, and while working at that Baptist church as a worship coordinator, I commenced theological studies at Charles Sturt University.

It transpired that I moved to Canberra to study on campus at St Mark's, where I shared some classes with the Reverend Susan Bridge, whom many of you will know, and I distinctly remember saying to someone "the funniest thing would be if God turned me into an Anglican Priest"... and you can guess what happened!

That in itself wasn't a simple journey and there were specific and significant moments, and I would now say sacred moments, which guided and enabled that journey.

Each of us has a story of faith. For some of us it may be that we were brought up in the church and have always known, and had a relationship, with God. For others, we may think of a particular occasion where we first invited Christ into our lives. And perhaps for all of us, we can look back and see some specific, significant moments, that we may declare 'sacred'.

If you've never thought about your own story of faith, never for instance, done a timeline of significant moments in your own journey of faith, then I'd like to encourage you to consider doing so. And there are several reasons:

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The Reverend Leigh Gardiner, preaching

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PATRONAL FESTIVAL of ST LUKE

Sunday 20 October 2019

10am Patronal Eucharist

Guest Preacher:
The Venerable Dr Brian Douglas

12 noon Patronal Luncheon

Seddon Hall

Tickets: \$40/Children \$15
(BYO) available at Parish Office or
<https://www.trybooking.com/549240>



Mary, the Mother of Jesus

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1. When our faith is shaken those moments often provide an anchor point.
2. They help us tell our own story.
3. They are a witness to the Gospel, the good news of Jesus.

We sang this morning of Mary's anguish at the cross. How might Mary have needed to remember those specific and significant moments, those sacred moments? Not only when she was a teenager, but when she was at a wedding with Jesus and told him to sort out the wine issue. And she presumably witnessed, and certainly was told about, other miracles and aspects of his ministry. Her grief would not have diminished, but her faith, perhaps shaken, perhaps full of questions, had anchor points.

What are your faith anchor points? Or alternatively, why are you still a Christian? Not why or how did you come to faith, but why are you *still* a Christian?



*The Rector with Guest Preacher,
The Reverend Leigh Gardiner*

In answering that question you might find other anchor points, you might articulate existential responses, you might think of the saints or the community of faith or about social justice, and if we were to write up a list of everyone's responses it would be a varied list. And that is *your* story. And *your* story is not only important, it's essential for the continuation of the church.

In recent years, marketing strategies have turned more and more to the power of story. Universities such as Stanford run courses in storytelling. I read a Forbes article which stated "Look at any great enterprise and invariably its mission drives its strategy, not the other way around. And it all starts with a story."

Mary's story, your story and my story, are part of the larger narrative of God's redemptive and reconciling work. At the Lord's Table, we re-tell part of Jesus' story, and for many of us participating in the Eucharist regularly is one of those anchor points for us.

We celebrate Mary's faithfulness and willingness. We know that she was loved by God and chosen for a particular purpose. The few verses we heard today from *Galatians* (4:4-7) remind us that we, too, are loved by God and chosen for a purpose. The work of Jesus is not only about freeing us but adopting us so that we are family, we are heirs of all that is God's. We cry out, just as Jesus did, "Abba! Father!"

Our broken world needs to know God's love, but our world is full of competing, and often very loud voices, and people understandably put on their headphones (often literally) and exclude the world.

It is over coffee or a meal, within the context of authentic relationships, that ears are opened and we have opportunities to share our story, including our faith story. Many of us think "I don't have a story worth sharing", or "no-one wants to listen to me". Actually, I'd like to suggest you do.

I wonder if you might do something. I invite you to look at your hands.

Your hands have their stories:

- of touching lives...
- of holding pain...
- of embracing...
- of planting seeds and tending gardens...
- of closing in anger...
- of opening and welcoming...
- of reaching out and of being received...
- of cleaning, washing, mopping, scrubbing...
- of work of all sorts.

Hands that are wrinkled and scarred.

Hands that have worked for justice.

Hands that reach out for the bread and the cup.

Hands that hold the promise of the future.

I wonder if you might now put your hands on your heart. For these stories of your hands are also the stories of your heart. And they are the stories that people want to hear and remember; and many of them, those anchor point stories, point to God's story. For while we honour Mary's faithfulness today, our broken world needs our faithfulness, too.

St Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc.



Callum Close and Kathryn Dries

A Director's Series Concert was held on 31 August 2019 with Callum Close on piano, accompanying renowned soprano Kathryn Dries.

This concert was enthusiastically received by our audience entranced by Kathryn's amazing singing across a range of songs. She was adeptly accompanied by our own talented Music Director, Callum Close.

Bernard Walz and Emilie Lemasson will once again be in concert at St Luke's Church on Sunday 29 September 2019 at 3pm.

This popular duo has proved to be a great favourite with St Luke's audiences and they are back by popular demand. Join us to enjoy their polished professionalism and entertaining performances. Tickets \$30 (concessions and students \$25). Children under 16, free!

For further details, contact Jeannette Lawrence on 0405 041 733, or Phillip Seale on 0405 198 420.

St Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc: Youth Concert – March 2020 at the Mosman Art Gallery

In February of this year, probably our most ambitious project for the Music Association, our first Youth Concert, took place at Mosman Art Gallery. It proved to be one of our most popular ventures.

Over 110 people attended the concert, which showcased 24 young musicians from the greater Mosman area. The Mayor of Mosman, Carolyn Corrigan, attended the concert and presented participation certificates to the talented performers. The audience was amazed by the musical talent of these young students.

The St Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc. is delighted to announce that a Youth Concert will be next March 2020 at the Mosman Art Gallery. Please mark this in your diary! Details will be forthcoming shortly.

Phillip Seale, Treasurer, SLMMA Inc.



An update on our General Parish Mission Giving



Seddon Hall – Mid-Winter Lunch, July 2019

are supporting this year. Guests were greeted with mulled wine and cheese and biscuits; then our resident chef, Anthony Mobbs, spoilt us with pea and ham soup, beef stew and sticky date pudding. The youth of the Parish, which included the Rector's children, did a great job waiting on table and a number of local businesses donated raffle prizes.

In July this year the parishioners at St Luke's gathered together (around an actual log fire) for our Mid-Winter Luncheon.

The event was well supported and we raised \$2,000 for the Missions we

In August, St Luke's went to Randwick Races and raised just over \$1,000. Paul Fleming secured 35 tickets for the members stand. We organised a bus to take us to Randwick and bring us home. The weather was amazing and everyone definitely dressed to impress!

Currently, the Parish has raised approximately \$6,500 for Missions. Our next fundraiser will be our annual Christmas wine drive.

This has proven to be very successful in past years and we hope to do as well (or even better!) this year. We also hope to introduce something new at our Patronal Festival Lunch in October. Watch this space...

Paula Turner, Rector's Warden



St Luke's Charity Race Day

Confirmation at St Luke's

8 December 2019

What is Confirmation? Confirmation provides an opportunity to consider the role of and importance of faith and belief in our lives. Many of us are baptised as babies and it is our parents and godparents who make promises before God on our behalf. Preparing for Confirmation is recognition that we are now old enough to make those promises for ourselves.

Our Confirmation Service will take place on Sunday 8 December 2019 at 9am. The Right Reverend Chris Edwards, Bishop of North Sydney, will officiate at the Confirmation Service. Preparation courses for both young people and adults are available. For more information, please speak directly to the Rector, the Revd Dr Max Wood, Mb: 0439 475714 or e: rector@stlukesmosman.org. Alternatively, contact the Parish Office on 9969 6910 or e: office@stlukesmosman.org.



You are invited to join us for our

All Souls' & Remembrance Sunday Memorial Eucharist

Sunday 10 November 2019
9.00 am

St Luke's Anglican Church
4 Heydon Street Mosman



Please RSVP by Thursday 7 November
T: 9969 6910 | www.stlukesmosman.org
E: office@stlukesmosman.org



You are invited to come to our annual

Baptism Bears' Service and Morning Tea

Sunday 3 November 2019
11.30 am



St Luke's Anglican Church
4 Heydon Street Mosman

Please RSVP by Tuesday 29 October
T: 9969 6910 | www.stlukesmosman.org
E: office@stlukesmosman.org

DIARY NOTES

SEPTEMBER

29 SLMMA Inc. Concert:

3pm Bernard Walz (piano)
and Emilie Lemasson (soprano)

OCTOBER

20 Patronal Festival Eucharist of St. Luke

10am Guest Preacher:
The Venerable Brian Douglas, Archdeacon of South Canberra

12noon Patronal Luncheon
Seddon Hall

NOVEMBER

3 Baptism Bears' Service and Morning Tea

11.30am Church, Lower Hall and Courtyard

10 All Souls' Remembrance Service

9am Church

17 Michelle Urquhart (Violin and Viola) and Friends in Concert

2pm Church, Lower Hall and Courtyard

DECEMBER

15 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

7pm Church, Lower Hall and Courtyard

24 Family Christmas Service 5pm

25 Christmas Day Eucharist 9am

Remember you can follow St Luke's 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.

Editor: The Revd Dr Max Wood
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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

