

# Parish Life

MARCH 2021

## An open invitation from the Rector

### Come, celebrate the resurrected Christ with us this Easter!

Last year, Christians everywhere mourned the seeming cancellation of Easter due to the COVID-19 global pandemic that sent the world into lockdown. There was a palpable feeling of loss and grief at not being able to join together to affirm our faith in our Risen Lord. This year, it seems we will be able to enjoy this immense privilege.



*This is my personal invitation to each and every one of you to join us at St Luke's for Holy Week and Easter 2021.*

Join us for our Palm Sunday and Holy Week services as we walk with our Lord from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to Gethsemane, from Pilate's court to the cross at Golgotha; and finally, to rejoice that "He is Risen, indeed!" on Easter morning. The Lord be with you.

*The Reverend Dr Max Wood, Rector*

## Ivan Head Sermon – Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Sunday 7 February 2021

This paper is a compendium of what I prepared, what I said on the day, and what can be summarised. On the day the sermon departed from the text as the conversation from pulpit to pew invited.

Hearers in the first century would have known that the Temple stood until what we call the year 70AD. The child Jesus was brought there by his parents in fulfilment of the religious obligations. These obligations seem very different outwardly from modern

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## ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MOSMAN HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021



Our Guest Preacher throughout Holy Week is The Right Reverend Richard Hurford OAM KStJ

### PALM SUNDAY

28 March

9am Holy Eucharist

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

1 April

7pm Holy Eucharist with Washing of the Feet

### GOOD FRIDAY

2 April

9am Good Friday Liturgy  
12pm The Stations of the Cross

### EASTER DAY

4 April

10am Easter Day Eucharist

Cnr Ourimbah Rd. & Heydon St. | [www.stlukemosman.org](http://www.stlukemosman.org)



Rev'd Canon Dr Ivan Head. Warden of St Paul's College 1994-2017 and Bequests Officer with the Anglican Board of Mission

requirements where the sacrifice of living creatures (birds or animals) has no place in the Christian mindset. And yet, Baptism or Christening in water is an entry into the death and resurrection and sending of the Spirit of Christ and directs us to the sacrifice of Jesus – however that sacrifice is understood.

Temple and sacrifice have a vocabulary link from then to now, however much we know that Jesus' death was not a liturgical event in the Temple or other place of worship. It was a degradation of a life by the misuse of Roman power, in which a person innocent of any real charge was executed. Jesus was a victim and in essence became the saving Victim who addresses 'the sins of the whole world.' In our temples today we rehearse this death and resurrection in the liturgy and the whole life-giving action and provision of God. The Catholic Mass is called a 'bloodless sacrifice' which provokes the deepest thought about how we ourselves offer as a holy and living sacrifice, and on what basis.

I try to summarise that provision by God under the headings of God's **for-us-ness** and God's **provision** for us (pro-vision), and I pick up on Tyndale's sixteenth century invention of the English word atonement, better rendered as '**at-one-ment**.' And I spoke for some time about these 'masterstock dimensions' of the faith.

Christians today can struggle to understand any detailed reference to the Jewish Temple that once stood on the Temple Mount and whose remnant foundations remain one of the holiest places in Judaism. We might find it even more challenging to get our heads around the rationale for the Islamic holy places atop the Mount and to form an understanding of the

# Ivan Head Sermon ...Continued from page 1

rise of Islam across the centuries and in the places where St Paul preached and in Constantinople, which was the heir of old Rome or Rome in the West until 1453, and still alive as an issue in the years following World War One. In Josephus' *The Jewish War* we can read the trauma-laden account of the Temple treasures and key symbols being paraded through Rome in the triumph of Titus and Vespasian following their final victory over the uprising of the Jewish people. That Triumph was itself an event with great reference to the gods of Rome; to the point where the execution of insurgents had sacrificial dimensions. The Arch of Titus stands in Rome to this day. [The Acts of the Apostles really tracks Christian faith from Rome to Jerusalem.]

St Luke and many of the NT writers took a positive view of the Temple. It appears in a positive light as Joseph and Mary take the infant Jesus there. It appears in a positive light when again they take the 12 year-old Jesus there, when he displays wisdom beyond his years. Even when we include the story of Jesus driving the money changers from the Temple, his attitude to the Temple is positive in the extreme and he held a high view of it in what it should be for the people called by God to be his people. I am often struck by the sayings of Jesus recorded in the latter part of St Matthew, where Jesus poses the alternative opposites: 'It is not the gold that makes the Temple Holy but the Temple that makes the gold Holy.'

This insight into the formal element, the **informing first principles of things** grants a power to the Temple as a place, a place set apart for the worship of Almighty God and all matters in accordance with that first principle – and as made known by the Almighty's authority or by God's agent. The Temple is said to be a place of Presence, of God's glory. Christians may find the same dimensions as aptly re-expressed in cathedrals and churches. I note these verses in St Matthew:

Matthew 23:16

Woe to you blind guides, who say 'whoever swears by the sanctuary is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound by the oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold, or **the sanctuary that has made the gold sacred?**

Matthew 23:19-22 should also be quoted:

You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it. For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and everything on it, and whoever swears by the sanctuary swears by it and by the one who dwells in it, and whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who is seated upon it.

For in Jesus, Our Lord, we see an unerring and constant reference of all matters to a dimension of first principles, which are that 'God is not only transcendentally seated on the throne that is the heavens, the cosmos out there, but is the one who deigns to be known locally as "the one who dwells in this sanctuary"' - and even within the human person.

He invites us to reflect on presence and specifically on the presence of God, the presence of Christ who answers the question 'which God?', the presence of the raised Christ and indeed the presence of the Spirit which not only raised Jesus from the dead. We can throw in a statement like 'Nature need be no obstacle to the presence of God' or St Paul's assertion in Romans 8 'The Spirit testifies with our spirits that we are children of God.' Elsewhere we are called or likened to temples, and we are told that the Spirit dwells in us.



# St Luke's Organ Repairs

**In the third week of February, Simon Pierce Pipe Organs began the repairs to our pipe organ.**

The organ was damaged when rain entered into the organ loft through the church tower during an extreme storm in early 2020. Since that time we have worked with our insurers to decide the best approach and contractors to undertake the repairs. This has taken some time as we also had to negotiate the COVID-19 rules.

Simon Pierce has undertaken some repairs on-site while the great sound board, the main area of water damage, has been removed and transported to their factory in Brisbane. They are currently in the process of stripping the great soundboard into its component parts and either repairing or replacing individual items as necessary. Following this

the sound board will be reassembled and tested at the factory prior to re-installing in the church. It is expected that the work will be completed in coming months. Hopefully this will coincide with a return to “normal” services where we can both sing and experience the magnificent sounds of our Fincham organ.

*Tony Tanner*



## AGM Report

On Sunday 14 March (Lent 4), a hardy group of Parishioners braved the wind and rain to attend our Annual General Meeting for 2021. Detailed reports had previously been circulated which documented the numerous challenges that the unprecedented global pandemic has had on our Parish life this past year. The Rector's Report outlined the various adaptations to ministry that we have made. The Wardens' Report set out a number of maintenance projects that have been undertaken, including the installation of solar panels on the Parish Centre roof. The Treasurer's report noted that while we achieved a promising headline result, this was substantially aided by one-off Government COVID-19 support measures and reduced expenditure.

The following are the elected and appointed positions for 2021:

### Wardens

- Paula Turner (Rector's Warden, appointed)
- David Burke (People's Warden, elected)
- Nick Moser (People's Warden, elected, Parish Treasurer, appointed)

### Parish Councillors

- Rick Still (elected)
- Ian Dodd (elected)
- Tony Tanner (elected)

### Parish Nominators

- Jocelyn Chey (elected)
- Ian Dodd (elected)
- David Nyholm (elected)
- Paula Turner (elected)
- David Burke (elected)

### Lay Synod Representatives

- Paula Turner (previously elected)
- Jocelyn Chey (elected)



## Girls' Night Out

The very first Girl's Night Out was in August 2015 and since then the ladies of our Parish have met many times.

Unfortunately, Girl's Night Out was not able to occur in 2020, but as restrictions are slowly being lifted, we plan to start meeting regularly again. We will continue to meet once a month at 6 pm but the day will change from a Tuesday to a Wednesday. We will meet on the **fourth Wednesday of the month**, initially upstairs in the Mosman Hotel, but then we will try other venues like The Gourmet Inn, Sushi Train, Thai 9, A Taste of India, Fourth Village, The Hunter, Boronia House, The Buena and The Fernery. Suggestions about where we might meet are always very welcome.

Girl's Night Out is a great opportunity to get to know each other better, but it is also a means of reaching out to our local community of women by inviting our female friends who are not parishioners of St Luke's. All ladies are welcome; age is not important. Some of our group are in their 40s and others are in their 80s, so please check the bulletin for meeting dates and come and join us!

*Paula Turner, Girl's Night Out Coordinator*

## Blokes' Night Out

Like its counterpart, Blokes' Night Out has been a popular monthly event with the men of St Luke's for around 6 years.

Last year, it was not possible to hold our regular gatherings and many of our menfolk lamented not being able to share fellowship together in this way. Since restrictions began to be lifted earlier this year, we planned to start meeting regularly once again and were delighted by the response as the word went out. We will continue to meet once a month at 6 pm on the **first Wednesday of the month**. Traditionally, the Upper Duck at the Hotel Mosman is a favourite venue. However, from time to time, we meet elsewhere.

Blokes' Night Out provides an informal opportunity to build stronger parish friendships, as well as invite a wider circle of male friends who are not regular churchgoers. All blokes are welcome, irrespective of age. Please check the pew sheets for dates and venues, or give Clive Taylor your details so he can contact you directly. Most importantly, get involved – come along and enjoy Blokes' Night Out for yourself.

*Clive Taylor, Blokes' Night Out Coordinator*

## Shrove Tuesday Dinner

Many of us have been missing regular social contact with our friends and families. So, while it was not possible to have our traditional buffet-style Pancake Night in the Lower Hall and Courtyard this year, some of our Parish family came together to enjoy an informal Shrove Tuesday Dinner last month at the Lower Duck, Hotel Mosman. It was good to be able to share a meal and a time of fellowship together in a COVID safe way.



*Remember you  
can follow*

*St Luke's on* 

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.

**Editor:** The Rev'd Dr Max Wood  
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The Rev'd Dr Max Wood

To stay in touch at St Luke's, check the weekly pew bulletin regularly, read the quarterly *Parish Life*, visit our website [www.stlukesmosman.org](http://www.stlukesmosman.org) and follow us on

