

The Seventh Sunday of Pentecost 11 July 2021

Dear Friends,

In our reading this morning from Mark's Gospel, we are confronted by the somewhat gruesome demise of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. This account clearly foreshadows what Jesus and his disciples must face in days to come. John loses his life through no fault of his own, as does Jesus. John's disciples collect his body after his execution and lay it in a tomb, as

do Jesus' disciples following his crucifixion. The parallels are obvious; but what is missing, of course, is the joy of the resurrection that will follow Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

I respectfully ask that you support our Parish financially, as you are able. Your offertory is the lifeblood of our operations. Offertory may be sent to the Parish Office by cheque (St Luke's Church Mosman, PO Box 162, Spit Junction NSW 2088), or deposited directly into our bank account (St Luke's Church Mosman, BSB 032-291, A/C 810105).

Alternatively, you can contribute to offertory at: https://donorbox.org/st-luke-s-anglican-churchmosman-support (type or copy and paste into your browser).

Please feel free to contact me, if you wish. My contact details are on the back cover. I pray that

we will soon be able to meet together for Sunday worship, once again. Be assured you all remain in my thoughts and prayers during these difficut times. Continued blessings to you and to those whom you love.





PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Our Diocese, Northern Region and our local church community

The Archbishop: The Most Reverend Kanishka Raffel

The Regional Bishop: The Rt Revd Chris Edwards

Northern Region: Parishes of Lindfield and Normanhurst

Local churches: St Peter's, Cremorne; Revd Tim St Quintin, clergy and people

Missions 2021

Anglicare Sydney:

Mobile Community Pantry Program;

Bill Farrand, Anglicare Community Services Manager

Bush Church Aid:

BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer,

The Revd Neville Naden and Mrs Kathryn Naden

Anglican Board of Mission:

Sustainable Livelihoods Program, Kenya;

The Revd John Deane, ABM Executive Director

Those we are holding in prayer

Immediate Sick:

Jenny Willis, Dorothy Bashford, Nancy Lovitt

Those Requiring On-Going Prayer:

Alex Dimitric, John Dimitric, Irina Dimitric, Heather, Bernie Walsh, Shannour, Chloe Turner, Denise Thomas, Jackie Lockhart, Robert Rowlands, Tim Bolot, Robb Crawford

People in Residential and Home Care:

Dawn Holdaway, Betty Gemmell, Mary Shuttleworth, Elaine Porter, Helen Huby, Pat Wood, Jean Barton, Robin Wilks, Denis Pearson

The Prayer for the Day

Eternal God,

Open our eyes to see your hand at work

in the splendour of creation

and in the beauty of human life.

Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,

to share our blessings with our sisters and brothers,

and to experience the joy of life in your presence;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 1.1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6.14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Anglican Parish of St Luke, Mosman

Postal Address: PO Box 162

Spit Junction NSW 2088

Street Address: 4 Heydon Street

Mosman NSW 2088

Telephone: 9969 6910

Email: office@stlukesmosman.org
Website: www.stlukesmosman.org

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@StLukesMosman

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1pm / 3pm - 5.30pm

Helen Bell, Parish Manager

T: 9969 6910

E: office@stlukesmosman.org

Parish Contacts

The Rector:

The Reverend Dr Max Wood E: rector@stlukesmosman.org

T: 9969 6910 Mb: 0439 475 714

Associate Priest:

The Reverend Peter Kurti E: peterkurti@hotmail.com

T: 9969 6910

Church Wardens:

Paula Turner Mb: 0421 151 290 Mb: 0414 824 035 Nick Moser Mb: 0403 567 121

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.