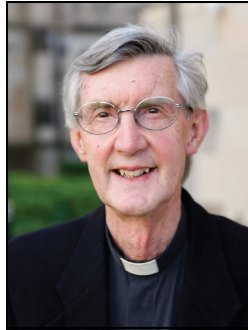




## LENT: A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Unlike Christmas, which remains the same date year after year, the season of Lent often seems to sneak up on us and suddenly we find it is Shrove Tuesday and Lent is about to begin.



As is the custom at St. Luke's, we enjoyed pancakes on the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday, and we thank Danielle and her team for a splendid repast.

Those of you who are familiar with the Book of Common Prayer will know that Easter Day is always the First Sunday after the full moon, which happens upon, or next after, the Twenty First Day of March.

Historians generally agree that the 40-day period before Easter, known as Lent, emerged shortly following the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Earliest observances of Lent seem to have focused particularly on the practice of fasting. Council records suggest that the fast applied at first mainly to new converts as a period of repentance and reflection before baptism at Easter. In any case, Lent quickly became a general practice churchwide. The actual 40-day period varied region-to-region, even church-to-church; some including weekends, some not; some fasting Sundays, others not. But in every case, the fast was strict: one meal a day after 3PM with no meat, fish, or dairy!

Following Nicea, Lenten practices remained essentially unchanged for centuries. However, by the 800s, the strictness of the fast began to relax. By the 1400s, Christians had begun eating the one meal earlier in the day, and later began to add a smaller meal to keep up their strength for work. Eventually, the one-meal restriction was lifted altogether, and new practices emerged, like the idea of giving up some luxury, or need, as a personal sacrifice for the season. Over time, "giving something up" became the centerpiece of Lent.

Many Christians these days still give up something for Lent: chocolate and alcohol are often chosen. But of more importance is to make time to give thought to what Lent is really about.

Our Sunday Gospel readings this Lent are from Matthew and John; and they give us an opportunity to reflect on our Lord's journey to the cross, starting with his temptation in the wilderness and following his encounters with those he meets along the way: Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the man born blind and finally, those calling for his trial and death.

But we finish with the joy of the empty tomb. This Lent may we reflect on the great truth that 'the Son of God loved me and gave himself for me.' May you have a holy and thoughtful Lent.

*Fr Philip*

**The Reverend Philip Bradford  
Locum Tenens**

## CHURCH PARQUETRY

Last year, the Church roof was extensively repaired. Unfortunately, during a lunch break one day, there was a heavy shower of rain and the roof had not been adequately covered, so the parquet flooring became water damaged.

After a period of negotiation, it was agreed that the roofing company's insurance would cover the repair costs for the floor. So, in January, almost everything had to be removed from the Church for the repair of the parquet flooring to take place. Under the guidance of the Wardens, removalists took out most of the pews, storing them in various rooms around the Parish Centre. The console and pedalboard of the Fincham organ had to be protected, as did the organ pipes. Despite special equipment being used to minimise dust from the sanding of the parquet flooring, there was a fine layer of dust over everything and it required very thorough cleaning.

The flooring was then given a coating of a matte laquer that helps to protect it and is also non-slip for the safety of people walking across the floor.



*Church empty for repair work*

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The transformation of the floor is quite remarkable and the Parish is grateful to the parquet flooring specialists who undertook the work, for the excellent job done.

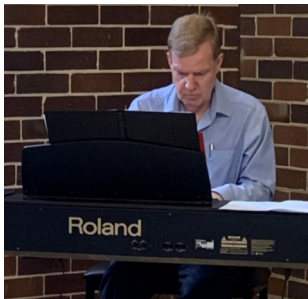


Parquetry flooring restored and polished

## SEDDON HALL WORSHIP

**While the extensive work was being done in the Church, it was necessary to have our Sunday Eucharist in the Seddon Hall for a couple of weeks.**

On the first Sunday, 22 January, we observed Epiphany 3. Our guest organist, Greg Cunningham, sportingly played a digital piano and the congregation rose to the musical challenge, boldly singing out their 'thanks and praise.'



The following Sunday, 29 January, was Epiphany 4 and the Choir returned from its Christmas break. It was something of a baptism of fire for our two new choral scholars, Sandra Liu (Soprano) and Amelia Bland (Alto). Needless to say, they were warmly welcomed by all and we are delighted to have them, with Owen Pearson and Nick Sprott, supporting this year's liturgical music program. Worshipping together in the Seddon Hall made us all feel spiritually linked with those for whom this was St Luke's Church, back in the early 1900s.



## ABM LUNCH — Supporting the people of Myanmar

Through its Anglican partner, The Church of the Province of Myanmar, the Anglican Board of Mission is supporting the people of Myanmar who lost their means of livelihood due to the military coup in their country and the ravages of Covid. St Peter's Cremorne and St Luke's Mosman hosted a light lunch of authentic Myanmar food in the Seddon Hall on Sunday 5 March, at which there was an opportunity to donate to ABM's vital work. The lunch raised a total of \$3,690 and an anonymous donor contributed a further \$2,000 to take the total to \$5,690. Sincere thanks to the hard working organisers, helpers and the head chef — all volunteers.



St Luke's Mosman Music Association presents Stainer's

# The Crucifixion

2pm, Sunday 2 April 2023

**The Choir of St Luke's Mosman and friends**

Conducted by **Callum Tolhurst-Close**

**David Drury** (Organ)

**Alexander Caldwell** (Tenor)

**Nicholas Geddes** (Baritone)

St Luke's Anglican Church, Mosman

Tickets \$20 at the door or via  
Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/3EHkcB0>

## ST LUKE'S 'PANCAKE SUNDAY'

It has become customary for us at St Luke's to enjoy a feast of pancakes on the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday. This year it fell on 26 February. Following our observance of Transfiguration at a 10am Eucharist, we adjourned to the Seddon Hall to enjoy savoury and sweet pancakes, tea, coffee and camaraderie. Pancake Sunday has become one of the most popular events on our social calendar and it was, as always, very well attended. The pancakes were delicious! Thank you, Danielle, for making so many pancakes and your special bolognaise, together with dessert options, too. Also, thanks to your offsider, Anthony Mobbs, for his yummy pancakes and willing help. No-one went home hungry!





Anglican Parish of

**St Luke**

Mosman

# St Luke's Mosman



# EASTER 2023

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**7 April 2023**

**9am Good Friday Liturgy**

**12pm Stations of the Cross**

**EASTER DAY**

**9 April 2023**

**7am Balmoral Eucharist**

**10am Easter Eucharist**

Cnr Ourimbah Rd & Heydon St

[www.stlukesmosman.org](http://www.stlukesmosman.org)



## Our first baptism for 2023!

Fr Philip blesses Baby Liam, witnessed by proud parents, Alice and Matt, and godmother, Jordan. It was a joy to have members of Liam's family from Sydney and Colorado USA here for his baptism.



## Fr Robert Alexander

People often ask for news of Fr Robert, former Pastoral Assistant at St Luke's and friend to many. Fr Robert now resides in a retirement facility in Queensland, close to his brother and his nephew's family. He is keeping well and finally enjoying a quieter pace of life, with time to appreciate the gardens, which he loves.

**Editor:** The Rev'd Philip Bradford

**Design:** Helen Bell

**Photos:** Helen Bell, David Burke, Anthony Naake, Paula Turner

To stay in touch at St Luke's, check the pew sheet regularly, read the quarterly *Parish Life*, visit the website [www.stlukes@mosman.org](mailto:www.stlukes@mosman.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

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.



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