



St Luke's Torquay
Transfiguration Anglesea
St Aidan's Aireys Inlet

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Surfcoast Anglican Parish

28 May 2017

Today's readings: Acts 1.6-14; Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 5; John 17.1-11

Today is also known as the Sunday after Ascension, as the Ascension of Jesus traditionally took place 40 days after the Resurrection - Thursday last week. Another way of understanding the metaphor of 40 days, is 'when that activity is complete', or 'when the time for completing that activity is finished'.

This means that the time for Jesus' resurrection appearances was over, and Luke then gives us a description of what the first disciples experienced as they came to recognise and acknowledge that Jesus was no longer physically with them, and had effectively returned to the source of love, light and life.

It can be quite useful to understand the ascension event as part of the Resurrection, rather than as a distinct event in its own right. Neither Matthew, Mark nor John made any reference to Christ's ascension in their Gospel accounts - they seem not to have thought it relevant.

The primary focus for those first disciples then becomes a time of prayerful waiting, and of expectancy of God at work in a way that is not quite visible, not quite tangible, not quite discernible. But Jesus had assured them that if they kept their faith in God - if they held on to their faith relationship - then God would make himself manifest to them in a fresh way: that the love, light and life of God that Jesus had revealed in a new way in his own life and ministry, would continue through them, and that God would be glorified in them as he had been glorified in Jesus. And we participate in that!

Parish Mission *(our purpose)*

Surfcoast Anglican Parish exists to:

- nurture people's relationship with God;
- encourage people by example to live by the teachings of Jesus;
- engage and work with the broader community.

Parish Vision *(our aspiration)*

An enthusiastic and welcoming Church valued for its contribution to the wellbeing of the Surf Coast community; and for providing innovative ways for people from all backgrounds to explore their spirituality.

THIS COMING WEEK

Mon 29 May *Vicar's day off*

Take A Breath Playgroup, St Luke's 10am (weekly, Mondays during term time)

Tue 30 May St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 1pm (weekly)

St Aidan's Painters, 10am (Tuesdays, weekly)

Mainly Music, Transfiguration 10am (weekly, Tuesdays during term time)

Parish Council, 7pm at St Luke's (mthly, on 4th Tuesdays)

Wed 31 May St Luke's, Eucharist, 10am (weekly)

Palestine of Jesus, cheese & wine, & slides, St Luke's 7.30pm

Thu 1 Apr -

Fri 2 Apr St Luke's Op Shop 9am to 4pm (weekly)

Coffee & Chat, St Aidan's 10am (mthly, every 1st Fri)

Meditation, Transfiguration 11am (Fridays, weekly)

Sat 3 Apr St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 1pm (weekly)

Sun 4 Apr St Aidan's - Eucharist, 8.00am (weekly)

WEAR RED,

Transfiguration - Eucharist, 9.15am (weekly)

ORANGE &

St Luke's - Eucharist, 10.30am (weekly)

YELLOW!

Readings for Pentecost

Numbers 11.24-30; Psalm 104.26-36; Acts 2.1-21; John 20.19-23

Regular Parish Meetings

Parish Lunch, Beach Hotel Jan Juc, noon (mthly, every 1st Tue) - next: 6 June

Torquay Home Group, 7.30pm at Helen's home (fortnightly) - next: 8 June

Torquay Craft Group, 1.30pm at Peggy Forbes' home (2nd & 4th Thursdays) - next: 8 June

St Aidan's Group, 10 for 10.30am (fortnightly) - next: 8 June

Maintenance committee, St Luke's 9.30am (mthly, every 2nd Tue) - next: 13 June

Home Group book for 2017: *Christianity for the Rest of Us*

The St Aidan's & Torquay home groups are exploring this book by Diana Butler Bass. The core of the book covers research of growing church communities, defined as the '*Ten Signposts of Renewal*'.

We are discussing the next 'signpost', Justice, on Thursday 8 June.

Copies of the book are available for you to read through the relevant chapter in preparation for each meeting. Do join in - stimulating conversation, friendship, and - in Torquay - a great cuppa after.

Prayer Chain - please contact Joan Bingham on 5261 2372, for prayer requests or to participate in the prayer chain.

Anglesea Aged Care, Eucharist at 10.30am (*every 3rd Tue*) - next: 20 June

Elouera, Eucharist at 2.15pm (*mtly, usually on 4th Tuesdays*) - next: 20 June

Mission Committee, after the St Luke's service (*quarterly*) - TBC

General Notices

Thanks - to all who helped plan and conduct last week's Parish Service at Transfiguration, and arranging for us to eat at the pub afterwards. The feedback has been very affirming of how wonderful it was to worship together as a parish family, and - in spite of quite a few of the regulars not being able to attend (for good reasons!) - there was a great turnout.

Baptism - hopefully I will be able to confirm that Lindy Banner was baptised in the sea at Cosy Corner yesterday afternoon, as we welcome her into the church community at St Luke's.

Thy Kingdom Come - each of us is invited to pray for six people you know to come to faith or to be renewed in faith, from Ascension (25 May) to Pentecost (4 June) - *see front page article in the TMA*. Join in with hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world and across the parish.

Parish Council - last week's meeting was postponed to this Tuesday.

The Palestine of Jesus - come & enjoy another cheese and wine at St Luke's 7.30pm Wed 31 May, as Irwin gives a presentation with slides.

A refugee family - urgently need blankets/duonas and covers: 6 single and 1 queen. Also jumpers and jackets for children and adults. Requested through Spring Creek Community House, via Rosemary Faris.

Mainly Music at St Luke's - IT'S ON!

Enough parishioners have put their hands up to explore helping to get **Mainly Music** going at St Luke's. We DO still need a few extra names, as some listed below are not available every Tuesday.

The team for St Luke's:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Phil Shirley | 5. Lydia Erving |
| 2. Julie Shirley | 6. Helen Reed |
| 3. Roger Brown | 7. Elizabeth Backhouse |
| 4. Chris Erving | 8. - <i>space for another</i> |

Since it has taken longer than expected to get to the required numbers, the plan to have the team trained and registered to start at the beginning of term 3 might need to be revised. If so, the new start date will be publicised when it has been determined.

Surfcoast Parish has an Assistant Priest!

The Rev'd Sharon Valentino starts with us today in the role of part-time Assistant Priest. The opportunity to invite her to minister in the parish alongside Fr John presented itself at the beginning of April, and we have been going through the process to make this happen.

Sharon and her husband Ben have a home in Belmont, having arrived there from the parish of Tongala-Stanhope in the Diocese of Bendigo where she was Priest in Charge. The role Sharon has been appointed to is for three days a week (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) for two years.

The Gift received from Edna Bartholomeh's will a couple of years ago is financing this position: the Church Wardens have allocated these funds for this purpose, Fr John has made the appointment, and the Parish Council has supported these decisions.

It was hoped to be able to announce this a fortnight ago and welcome Sharon at the parish service last Sunday, but the Registry is short-staffed due to budget constraints, and so Archbishop Philip was only able to sign her licence this last Thursday afternoon.

Sharon will be attending all the Sunday services initially, and then we plan to share the workload more effectively in due course.

I know that you will make Sharon and her husband Ben welcome, and I look forward to the parish benefiting from her complementary skill-set.

Plans/architectural drawings - for St Luke's: do they exist? Does anyone know where we might conveniently lay hands on them? (They're not in the office.) We need them for planning the ramps and for extending the crèche room.

Contact details for the Parish

Vicar: Rev'd John Webster Assistant Priest: Rev'd Sharon Valentino
Email: *use parish email* Days available: *Friday, Saturday, Sunday*
Mobile: 0448 499 093 Mobile: 0458 008 300

Wardens: Ken Farrow 5261 2331
 Roger Brown 5261 4675
 John Morrissy 5263 1304

Parish: Office: 5261 5558
 E-mail: office@surfcoastanglican.com.au
 Mail: PO Box 2 Torquay VIC 3228
 Website: www.surfcoastanglican.org.au (*Ken Farrow*)

*Notices for the pew sheet to the Office by Thursday.
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