



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Surfcoast Anglican Parish

18 February 2018

Today's readings: Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15

As we begin the Lent season with the story of Jesus' time in the wilderness in preparation for his three years' of ministry, the Gospel passage describes his wilderness time as taking forty days.

It might literally have been forty days, but the number signifies a deeper meaning: that of completion, i.e. until Jesus' time of preparation was complete. The rains that caused the flood during the time of Noah - to wash the world clean of humanity's sin - fell for forty days, i.e. until the earth was completely flooded. There are numerous references to forty days or forty years in the Bible, and in all cases if we substitute the words 'until the time was complete', it makes sense.

Another aspect of Lent we easily overlook in the southern hemisphere is the LENgThening of the daylight hours in the northern hemisphere's Spring season. The late winter/early spring season was usually a time of dearth, so fasting was often not a choice but an inevitability.

So there is naturally an association at this time, with the European cultural heritage that pervades modern Australian culture, of the late Winter/early Spring anticipation of the first crops, the new life that is waiting to burst forth.

While there is in the Church season of Lent a focus on penitence and for each of us to review and renew our faith relationship with God, it should not be done with a sense of gloom and abject spiritual worthlessness.

Rather, we are invited to do so with a sense of anticipating something about to burst forth - a new beginning, a fresh chance, a renewed life of light and love, a re-creation.

Waiting and preparing for the celebration of Easter can have a quiet tense energy of its own, that we can indulge in during the forty days of Lent, even here under the southern cross.



THIS COMING WEEK

- Mon 19 Feb** *Vicar's day off*
Monday Morning Playgroup, 10am St Luke's (weekly, Mondays during term time)
- Tue 20 Feb** **St Luke's Op Shop**, 9am to 1pm (weekly)
St Aidan's Painters, 10am (Tuesdays, weekly)
Mainly Music, at both St Luke's & Transfiguration 10am (weekly, Tuesdays during term time)
- Wed 21 Feb** **St Luke's - Eucharist**, 10am
Op Shop leadership - lunch meeting, 12 noon
- Thu 22 Feb** **St Aidan's Home Group**, 10.30am (weekly in Lent)
Torquay Craft Group, 1.30pm Peggy Forbe's (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
Torquay Home Group, 7.30pm at Helen Clement's (weekly)
- Fri 23 Feb** *Vicar starts leave*
St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 4pm (weekly)
Group Meditation, Transfiguration 11am (Fridays weekly)
- Sat 24 Feb** **St Luke's Op Shop**, 9am to 1pm
- Sun 25 Feb** **St Aidan's** - Eucharist, 8am (weekly)
Transfiguration - Eucharist, 9.15am (weekly)
St Luke's - Eucharist, 10.30am (weekly)
Readings for Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22.24-32; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38

Regular Parish Meetings

- Maintenance committee**, 11am St Luke's (mthly, every 2nd Wed) - next: TBC
- Elouera**, Eucharist at 2.15pm (mthly, on 4th Tuesdays) - next: 27 Feb
- Parish Council**, 7pm at St Luke's (mthly, on 4th Tuesdays) - next: 27 Feb
- Coffee & Chat**, St Aidan's 10am (mthly, every 1st Fri) - next: 2 Mar
- G-RAP run** (to St Andrew's Corio) from St Luke's at 12.45pm (mthly, every 1st Fri) - next: 2 Mar
- Parish Lunch**, Beach Hotel Jan Juc, noon (mthly, every 1st Tue) - next: 6 Mar
- Anglesea Aged Care**, Eucharist at 10.30am (mthly, every 3rd Thu) - next: 15 Mar
- Star of the Sea Aged Care**, Eucharist at 2.15pm (mthly, every 3rd Thu) - next: 15 Mar
- Mission Committee**, after the St Luke's service (quarterly) - next: TBC

General Notices

- Regular lift to St Luke's required** - for Mavis Wilden and Marcia Kitching from Star of the Sea Aged Care. Can anyone alternate with Kaye?

Announcement: Rev'd Sharon Valentino to be full-time

After much careful and prayerful consideration, Fr John and the church wardens have offered Sharon an adjustment to her contract with the parish. Sharon started a 2-year part-time position on 1 June 2017.

This has been changed to a 6-month full-time position effective from 1 March 2018. Towards the end of this time, Sharon and the parish's circumstances will be reviewed.

In addition to continuing her good work in assisting with parish services and providing ministry support to the Op Shop team, I have asked Sharon to take the lead in helping parishioners to form a Pastoral Care Group. This will be her main project during her remaining time with us.

Do note that Sharon will continue to juggle her current two part-time jobs for the rest of February.

Shrove/Pancake Tuesday thanks - to Helen and everyone else who assisted in making this another happy event for our church family and friends.

\$1,175 was raised - our Mission Giving committee will make a recommendation about donating how much and where.

Lenten giving - our mission giving for Lent is ABM as usual. Please use envelopes in pew sheets, or other envelopes marked 'mission', and place in the collection plate during the offertory through the Lent season.

World Day of Prayer - afternoon tea planning meeting TODAY after the service at St Luke's. It is our turn to host this annual service, so it'll be good to plan our hospitality for Fri 2 March. If you are able to help, please give your support to Kaye as she makes arrangements.

Book launch through AIRAR - Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees is organising the launch of 'Man Man - Making Meaning on Manus' at Great Escape Books 7pm Fri 23 Feb. RSVP essential - see noticeboard for details.

Fr John on leave - I will be on a short break Fri 23 Feb through Mon 5 Mar. Sharon & Irwin will cover my services.

Kays Fashion - fashion parade and afternoon tea 1.30pm at St Luke's Thursday 8 March - \$10 donation.

Lent course: *Listening to the Wisdom of the Desert*

10.30am at St Aidan's and 7.30pm at Helen Clement's on five Thursdays, starting 22 Feb. This modern Lenten program booklet for group or personal study is available for people at \$8 - ask Fr John.

Author Joanna Thyer has taken her theme from Jesus' 40 days in the desert. She explores this using prayer, biblical reflection and modern stories. You are invited to sign up on the notice board.

Parish Directory for 2018

It is time again to prepare, print & distribute the new Directory. A new Database Information and Permissions Form has been developed for you to complete. Please collect a copy from your Parish Centre, complete it in full and return it to the Parish Office as soon as you can.

If we do not receive your written consent prior to publishing next month, we will not be able to include your entry in the new directory. Only those parishioners who do so will be able to have a directory.

If your photograph does not appear in the current directory, could you please include one with your completed form - this helps new members of our Parish in putting names to faces.

About half of our active worshippers have completed forms. When completing yours don't forget to sign in the second place right at the bottom as well if you're happy for your photo to be included.

Mainly Music - the parish's two small teams at Transfiguration and St Luke's need more team members. We are still dependent on four members of Waurm Ponds Community Church to help with this parish activity. Come along to a session to see how great it is. For the last 2 weeks we had 30 children at St Luke's and now we have a waiting list of over 10 families.

Progressive dinner - Anglesea Combined Churches on Fri 16 March: 6pm starters at Transfiguration, main course at Uniting Church, dessert at St Christopher's. RSVP by 12 Mar, either 5263 2744 or Carmen Koster.

St Luke's/Parish history - Norma Morrison is taking the lead with this. If you have any stories, photos or documents relating to the history of St Luke's and all the neighbouring churches that have been associated with St Luke's from time to time, kindly make them available to her or the Office.

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: Roger Brown 5261 4675
 Chris Erving 0413 570 367
 Margaret Vise 5263 3321

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.
All hymns used by permission: CCLI licence 398022*