

ST LUKE'S CHURCH
THE PARISH OF MODBURY
and
GOLDEN GROVE

Sunday, 24th December, 2023

.... WELCOME

ADVENT 4
OUR SERVICES TODAY

9.30am Holy Communion with hymns
7.30pm Christmas Carols
8.00pm Holy Communion

Mary's Story: Faith overcoming fear
(Luke 1.26 – 38)

Even for Christians it's all too easy to romanticise Christmas, certainly that's the way our society would pull us. The truth is there's a heck of a lot of fear and anxiety around the Christmas story. If you read St Luke's account, you'll see that God's messengers (the angels) are always saying to those they visit, 'Do not be afraid!' Now granted, for some (for example, the shepherds camping out under dark skies) the sudden appearance of an angel may have been scary enough to require some reassurance. If we look at Mary's experience, however, (Luke 1.26 – 38) it was the Angel Gabriel's initial words that caused her to be troubled. What's more, the news that Gabriel went on to give would have been hugely confronting for her (to say the least!)

Think about Mary's situation. Here's a teenage girl, on the threshold of life, looking forward to marriage in the next twelve months or so. But then, with Gabriel's pronouncement, everything is changed, Mary's hopes, her plans, her future - all are under threat. And what of her relationship with Joseph her betrothed? What defence could she offer him when the proposed pregnancy became obvious? In the society of the time the best she could hope for was a quiet breaking of the betrothal, but there was a very real possibility she might be shamed and cast out of her home and village. All this, I imagine, flashed through Mary's mind in a moment, and then she answers: *'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'* (Luke 1.38)

We shouldn't miss the courage that lies behind these words. If we are to live faithfully there will be times when faith needs to call forth courage.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December 9.30am

Holy Communion



Dear Parish Family

Thank you for your overwhelming spirit of goodwill, your support and faithfulness during what has been a very busy, and at times challenging, year.

May you all have a joyous and holy Christmas, whatever that looks like for you, remembering that Christ was born not into a perfect world, but into one that desperately needs joy and hope and light.

With love and blessings, Jo.

With thanks. The family of Dominic, a 10 year old boy with haemolytic anaemia, wishes to thank St. Luke's community for their prayers. Dominic is now on the road to a complete recovery.

Rosters for January, February and March 2024.

A limited number of paper copies (green) are available on the table at the rear of the church for anyone who has not received a copy by email.

“Recycling for groceries - \$48.80 has been raised through recycling of cans/bottles, etc, for groceries to be distributed through the Op Shop. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. *Audrey Dewell*”

FOR PRAYER

The health and well-being of those needing immediate prayers:

Susan Restell, Jose, Jodie McIntosh, Damian Wyld, Glenys Williams, Bryan Mason, Rhonda Hill, Duane Fowler, Betty Bryson, Debbie Southren, Greg Downton, Anne Pfitzner, Ann and Fred Tee, Marion Ford, Vimla Mukerji, Kathy Fennell, Roland Barker, Barry Connell, Jeremy Bollen, Jeff Pfeiffer, Melanie.

Those who need ongoing prayers for healing and well-being:

Helen Gummow, Jessie Waters, Donald & Marjory Prince, Beth Morgan, Emily Cahill, Emmett Bollen, Bryan Shillabeer, Cathie, Faith Drodge, Catherine Cooling, Malcolm Mayes, Naomi, Vicky Pattie, Jake Drury, Samantha Drury, Nerida Fidock, Brian Gummow, Michaela Kinnoch, Mia, Muriel Taylor and family, Joy Pedlar and family, Sylvia and Bill McDonald, Chris Davies, Robbie Fowler, Flack family, Jean, Joanne Clark and family, Jean Downton and family, Gary Fawcett and family, Mary Turner, Robert Rechner, Melissa Burtenshaw, Peter Morris, Zoe, Cilla Harvey, Jeanette and Allan Canton, Jill G, Sue Fawcett, Andrew Mitchell, Frances K.

Cycle of Prayer. This week we keep before God in our prayers the following members of our Parish family:

Helen Gummow, Marilyn & John Harris, Eric & Maria Harrison, Brenda Hartweg and St. Luke's Opshop.

Those who have died and whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Hilda Charlton.

+ *Rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Requests for prayer should be made to Deb Travis 0450 950 112 (8am service); June Hindmarch 0402 138 694 (9.30am service); or speak to Jean Rechner 0409 816 115 (Thursday service).

Next week's readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7

First Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 148
Luke 2:22-40

ROSTER REMINDER for 9.30am service next Sunday

Reader 1: Margaret Curd
Reader 2: June Hindmarch
Intercessor: Healing prayers
Sidespersons: John Dearman & Wendy W-D
Welcoming: Susan Dearman & Dorothy Bienke
Morning Tea: Maria Harrison & Christine Walker

PARISH CONTACTS

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|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PARISH PRIEST | The Rev'd Jo Smith; 0401 086 404 jo@amip.net.au |
| PRIEST'S WARDEN | Peter Caddy; 0490 821 880; pmtcaddy@tpg.com.au |
| PEOPLE'S WARDEN | Margaret Curd; 0423 205 140; curdm@bigpond.com |
| PARISH OFFICE | 25 Smart Road, Modbury Phone: 8396 1407 Email: stlukesmodbury@outlook.com Web: www.stlukesmodbury.com |
| PASTORAL CARE TEAM & OP SHOP CO-ORDINATOR | Colin Fidock; 0417 819 938; colin.fidock@bigpond.com |
| COMMUNITY GARDEN CONVENOR | David Datson; 0413 278 180; dd@edtcomputers.biz |
| PROPERTY COMMITTEE CONVENOR | Darryel McLean; 0447 508 609; macfuddled@gmail.com |
| WEEKLY PEW SHEET | Please forward information to the church email or put a note under the office door by Wednesday. |
| CHURCH BANK DETAILS | BSB No: 015 300 A/c No: 709007242 A/c Name: St Luke's Church Modbury |

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

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| Monday | Bible Study | 10.00am |
| Tuesday | Holy Communion | 8.30am |
| | Community Garden | 9.30am |
| Wednesday | Foodbank (fortnightly) | 10.00am |
| Thursday | Holy Communion | 10.00am |
| | Stretch & Balance class & Christian Meditation (fortnightly) | 2.30pm |
| Friday | Community Garden | 9.30am |
| Community Garden BBQ | 1 st Tuesday of the month | 11.30am |
| Bari Worship | 1 st & 3 rd Sunday of the month | 11.30am |
| Men's Group | 2 nd Thursday of the month | 7.30pm |