

ST LUKE'S MODBURY
and
ST MARK'S GOLDEN GROVE
WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Sunday, 19th March, 2023

.... WELCOME

OUR SERVICES TODAY
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion (First Order)
9.30am Holy Communion with hymns (First Order)
11.30am Holy Communion (Bari)

The Blind Man's encounter with Jesus in today's gospel carries echoes of a story that every Jew would know well, one that we know well - the story of the creation. The story of a divine voice who said, "Let there be light." and "I am the Light of the world." It is the story of divine hands that shaped the Adam, the first human, out of the mud of the earth. It is the story of the divine creator who commanded the creation to live in the good world that God had made. The Blind Man's experience was a divine one: the Blind Man had heard God's voice and felt God's hands, but his community could only see in Jesus another mundane human being, another preacher coming to live off the hospitality of the community. So the Blind Man was sent away because of the story he had to tell and the new life he had been given. So, Jesus found the man again. Jesus met again the man who was no longer *physically* blind, and told him that he was finally seeing and speaking with the Son of Man, the Messiah. In that conversation, Jesus cured him of his real blindness, he bridged the distance between human and divine. Jesus showed the Blind Man that wrapped in flesh, is the God of creation, the God who spoke life into the darkness, and who is still the light of the world. The Blind Man, finally, truly, sees.

How many in the community, then and now, just couldn't peer under Jesus' flesh to see the divine? Jesus knows that about us. Jesus knows that we have trouble seeing God. So here in this place, Jesus comes to us over and over again and speaks to us words like forgiven, healed, renewed, beloved, washed, raised. And here Jesus reaches out to us. He washes our eyes in the waters at the font, the waters of gospel promise, the waters of new life. And here Jesus presses flesh into our flesh. Bread and Wine is brought to our lips and just as Jesus reached out to touch the Blind Man, God reaches out and comes as close as God can to us.

St Luke's Annual Vestry Meeting – Sunday, 26th March at 11am at St. Luke's.

Copies of the agenda and reports that have been received to date are available at the back of the church. Parishioners who would like copies of Vestry Minutes should request them from either of the Church Wardens.

In addition to the normal business of the AVM the following motion will be presented for consideration. “That the joint worship period between St Luke's and St Mark's be extended beyond April unless a negative outcome is received at either parish's special vestry meeting”. The reasoning behind this motion is that Special Vestry meetings to decide on the proposed amalgamation of St Luke's and St Mark's (one for each parish, conducted separately) will take place in the second half of April and it seems sensible to continue the current worship arrangements unless a negative decision is received (from either parish).

St. Mark's Annual Vestry Meeting will take place today at St Luke's after 9.30am service.

Proposed Merger: Special Vestry Meetings.

Special Vestry Meetings to decide on the proposed merger between St Luke's and St Mark's will be held on **Sunday 16th April at 11am (for St Luke's)** and **Sunday 23rd April at 11am (for St Mark's)**.

St Luke's Vestry, since it is the first to meet) will debate the following motion:

That this Vestry resolves to amalgamate with the Parish of Golden Grove, that the new parish be named the Parish of Modbury and Golden Grove, and that the Parish Councils of the two parishes be authorised to commence work to this end with Synod Office.

If this motion (or an amended version of it) is carried, it will then go to St Mark's Vestry on the following Sunday.

Both Vestry meetings will include opportunity for questions and answers prior to debate on the motion, and an explanatory text will be provided in the weeks before the Vestry meetings. This text will seek to explain the rationale for the proposed merger and, if both Vestries approve it, the steps that will be involved prior to its implementation.

Bush Church Aid (BCA). It is box opening time again. For those of you still using boxes please leave them at the back of the church. If you consider online giving please speak to Deb Travis. The money goes to general ministry supporting gospel ministry and field staff.

Easter flowers. The Flower Group would appreciate any donations towards the cost of flowers for Easter. Clearly marked “Easter flowers” envelopes may be placed in the collection bowls or money given to Helen Bradshaw or office staff. Thank you.

Please join us for morning tea in the Balcony Room after the service

ROSTER REMINDER for 9.30am service next Sunday

<i>Reader 1:</i>	Jan Walton
<i>Reader 2:</i>	Eric Harrison
<i>Sidespersons:</i>	Hugh Walker & John Dearman
<i>Welcoming:</i>	Doris De S & Susan Dearman
<i>Morning Tea:</i>	Denise Robinson & Adrienne Williams

FOR PRAYER



- * *The Ukraine*
- * *Safety of our children whilst using social media*
- * *Refugees seeking a new life*
- * *People suffering housing stress and rising interest rates*

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

Caryl Walker, Kathy and Simon Fennell, Peter Cooling, Iliya Khanzade, Michaela Kinnoch, Susan Restell, Diane Thiele.

Those who need ongoing prayers for healing and well-being: Eveline Robinson, Sadie, Carol Aitken, Helen Gummow, Barry Connell, Betty Mugg, Ian Archer, Jessie Waters, Donald & Marjory Prince, Richard and Beth Morgan, Emily Cahill, Emmett Bollen, Chris Landden, Adrienne Wright, Bryan Shillabeer, Cathie, Faith Drodge, Catherine Cooling, Christopher Allen, Christopher Richmond, Malcolm Mayes, Mia, Naomi and Roland Barker, Russell Blore, Vicky Pattie, Jake Drury, Samantha Drury, Nerida Fidock, Brian Gummow, Cynthia Hendriks, Jeanette Leister, David Cooling.

Cycle of Prayer. This week we keep before God in our prayers the following members of St. Luke's family: Stephanie McRostie, Beth Morgan, Betty Mugg, Joseph & Jolene Ng, David & Toni Owen and Foodbank.

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

Tom Oborn, Frank Schneider, Blue Jenkins.

+ *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 (Thursday service).

Next week's readings

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Romans 8.6-11

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 130

John 11.1-45

Thought for the Week

To have faith isn't to be blind and blissful; it is to be able to walk in the dark and be confident. Miros Volf

ST. LUKE'S PARISH CONTACTS

LOCUM TENENS	The Rev'd Dr Don Owers donaldowers@iCloud.com 0432 330 818
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DEPUTY PRIEST'S WARDEN	Antony Bown
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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.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT ST. LUKE'S

Monday	Bible Study	10.00am
Tuesday	Holy Communion	8.30am
	Community Garden	9.30am
Wednesday	Foodbank (fortnightly)	10.00am
Thursday	Holy Communion	10.00am
Friday	Community Garden	9.30am
Community Garden BBQ	1 st Tuesday of the month	11.30am
Men's Group	2 nd Thursday of the month	7.30pm
Bari Worship	1 st & 3 rd Sunday of the month	11.30am
Parish Council	3 rd Saturday of the month	9.00am