



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

Sunday, 14th December 2025

.... WELCOME

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
OUR SERVICES TODAY

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion with hymns

Today, the church invites us into the joyful pause of **Gaudete Sunday**, the third Sunday of Advent, when the candle we light is not purple but rose-coloured—a gentle symbol of joy breaking into the solemn waiting. Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas, but a season that holds longing and hope together. It teaches us to wait faithfully—but also to keep watch for the signs of joy already beginning to appear.

In Isaiah, joy bursts forth with astonishing imagery: deserts blooming, sorrow fleeing, parched places singing with life. This hope is given to people who know exile and disappointment, reminding us that God's joy is never naïve or sentimental. It is a promise spoken into real hardship. Christian joy does not deny reality—it trusts that God is at work within it.

Luke gives us the beautiful picture of a child, still in the womb, leaping for joy at Mary's greeting. Here joy becomes intimate and personal—something that stirs quietly within us even before we fully understand it.

And yet, in Matthew, we meet John the Baptist in prison, no longer leaping for joy, but questioning: "*Are you the one who is to come?*" His question reminds us that even faithful hearts experience doubt and uncertainty. Even in Advent, joy is not always obvious, and sometimes it feels hidden or delayed.

This Sunday we reflect on the surprising nature of joy—how God's joy often begins small, subtle, and easily overlooked. We ask how joy can coexist with waiting, longing, and questioning. And we remember that the joy we trust in is not something we must manufacture, but something God is bringing—quietly, tenderly, faithfully—into the world and into our lives.

Growing Faith, Building Community, Sharing Hope



Christmas services

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00pm	Family service with Holy Communion
	11.00pm	Traditional service with Holy Communion
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion

Christmas services. Please consider putting your name down to be a reader, sidesperson, intercessor etc at one of our Christmas services. Lists are on the table at the back of the church.

Foodbank will be in attendance at St. Luke's on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24th December from 10am to 11.30am

Op shop and Community Garden Christmas lunch. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this such a joyful occasion.

General Rosters for January, February and March 2026. It is already time for us to start preparing the general rosters for January, February and March. If you are involved in one or more of these ministries but expect to be unavailable for **2 or more weeks** during that period, could you please let us know **by * texting by the 14th December at the latest:**

- 8.00 am Service Roster – **Toni Owen 0439 684 236**
- 10.00 am Service Roster – **Warren Henriks 0474 759 301**

We are always looking for additional help for all of the ministries so, if you are able to help, please let either of us know. We will ensure that you are given appropriate guidance in the task involved. *NB This email is sent from the St Lukes Office and neither of us has access to direct responses.

Monday morning bible study will be in recess from 9th December until 2nd February.

Christmas flowers. Please place money in an envelope marked "Christmas flowers" and place in the collection basket.

Memorial book in the prayer corner. We are updating the memorial book. If you wish a loved one to be remembered please leave a note in the office or give to Deb Travis.

Happy birthday to Sandra Cardnell, Ann Dixon and Betty Mugg who celebrate their birthdays this month.

FOR PRAYER

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

Kirsty Lees (Sandy Trezise's daughter), Belinda Richmond, Max Pontifex, Louise Hoyle, Warren Sharpe, Catherine Cooling, Tess Richmond, Jo Johnson.

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

Shirley & Stewart Shrimplin, Helen Gummow, Jessie Waters, Donald & Marjory Prince, Beth Morgan, Emily Cahill, Emmett Bollen, Bryan Shillabeer, Cathie, Faith Drodge, Malcolm Mayes, Naomi, Vicky Pattie, Jeremy Bollen, Andrew Mitchell, Bob Hall, Sue Fawcett, Paul & June Walters, Anne Pfitzner, Jeanette Canton, Marilyn Harris, Ken Hodgson, Lorelie Hill, Sonia Smith, Alf Ho, Peter Cooling, Carol Aitken, Ian White, David, Debbie, Ruth Anne, Woody Abroe, Jan Walton, Colin Fidock, Jean & John McIntosh, Margie Caddy, Alec, Tricia, Erin & Tyson, Tim & Suzanne, Levi, Scarlett & Will, Ian & Bryan & families, Marion Ford & Ann Tee.

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, Cynthia & Neville Hendricks, Helen & Warren Henriks, June Hindmarch and Schools Ministry.

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

Recently Departed:

Anniversaries: Coral Nicoll, Margaret Carpenter, Sandra Carpenter, Al Heubler, John Datson, Colin Brown, Rhoda Oakley, Ron Rockliffe, Alfred Harwood, Murray Dossett, Doug Bain

+ *Rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Requests for prayer should be made to Deb Travis 0450 950 112 (8am service); Ann Dixon 0421 816 614 (9.30am service); or speak to Jean Rechner 0409 816 115 (Thursday service).

Next week's readings

Isaiah 7.10-16

Roman 1.1-7

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ps 80.1-7, 17-19

Matthew 1.18-25

ROSTER REMINDER for 10.00am service next Sunday

Reader 1: Raneth Fernando

Reader 2: John McIntosh

Intercessor: Glyn Price

Sidespersons: Veronica Boswell & Harry Brown

Welcoming: Audrey Dewell & Dany Fidock

Morning Tea: Marilyn & John Harris

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST	The Venerable Jo Smith; 0401 086 404; jo@amip.net.au
ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Rev'd Dr Don Owers; 0432 330 818 Rev'd Samuel Yengi; 0479 098 849; mori.keribe@gmail.com
PRIEST'S WARDEN	
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	Ann Dixon; 0421 816 614; addixon@rocketmail.com
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 SERVICES	Darryl 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: 705 077 A/c No: 00041526 A/c Name: Parish of Modbury and Golden Grove

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday	Bible Study	10.00am
Tuesday	Holy Communion	8.30am
	Community Garden	9.30am
Wednesday	Foodbank (fortnightly)	10.00am
	Bible Study	10.00am
Thursday	Holy Communion	10.00am
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
Come as You Are (Women's Fellowship)	1 st Friday of the month	10.00am