

The Anglican Parish of Emerald

St Luke's Emerald

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Sunday 29th March 2020

St Luke's Parish Mission Statement:



'To know Christ and make Him known'

Website: www.stlukesemerald.org.au

www.anglicanchurchcq.org.au/emerald.html

Email: stlukes_emerald@bigpond.com

Telephone: 4982 1802

Priest In Charge: Rev Jen Hercott (0435 824 414) (*Day Off - Tuesday*)

Wardens: Larry Daniels (0427 849 285) Ivy Elsdon (0448 821 778)

Welcome to St Luke's Emerald. To everyone who have come to St. Luke's for the first time, to those who call our parish home, and to those who wanted to "come and see".

Parish Contacts: *Pastoral Care:* Rev'd Jen *Prayer Chain:* Dianne McAtee
Safe Ministry: Elvanto: Hall Bookings: & Roster: Colin Hercott

Around the Diocese & Around the Parish:

The Anglican Church of the Diocese of Rockhampton has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Queensland. We have been following advice from Central Queensland Hospital and Health Services and have been communicating best practice protocols to our churches based on all government recommendations. From Monday 23rd March all Anglican Church Worship Services in regional centres across Central Queensland will be suspended until further notice. From April all Anglican Churches will be opening their doors to the public for personal prayer and reflection during the week. Visitors will be expected to follow health protocols of isolation, hand hygiene and social distancing. St Paul's Cathedral in William St Rockhampton will be attended and opened daily.

In our local context this mean: We will use old and new technology to provide connection, teaching and worship. Our church will be open during the day for personal prayer and reflection And our shop will remain open as a place of contact and conversation until we are no longer able to provide this service safely within church and Government guidelines. If you find yourself isolated during this time, please contact the church and we will find ways to love and support you. Special services such as Weddings and Funerals will still be able to be conducted under strict hygiene protocols but will be limited in numbers for attendance. We will work with families around providing outdoor services and/or streaming of services as appropriate for those who cannot attend. We will have on-line services available from next weekend, further details will be given for these through the week. Our pew sheets will be available on our website. If you cannot access, download or print and would like a copy posted out please let us know. Members of our church will be contacted by a pastoral care leader and small pastoral care groups will be established to check in, pray and share together.

ANNIVERSARIES: March/April

Please give Rev Jen any corrections or additions for our Anniversaries Diary.

Birthdays: 31st March Joel Sauer, 2nd April Declan Neville, Samuel Purcell, Georgina Staal, 3rd Dianne McAtee, Jan Fletcher, Bronwen Munro, 4th Ivy Elsdon

Baptism: 4th April Emma Staines, Meredith Ross, Hugh Ross, Laura O'Brien, James O'Brien,

Containers for change: To support the church through the containers for change program eligible containers can be dropped directly at the collection centre or left in the green collection bins in the kitchen or the church office. The church collection number is: C10121548. If you are unsure what containers are eligible please check the website <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/how-it-works>.

Church Finance: February 2020

Income: \$ 6,872.52 Expenditure: \$ 9,973.07 Shortfall: \$ 3,100.55

Whilst our services are suspended our bills will continue. Please continue to support the mission and ministry of St Luke's through regular giving either on-line or by deposit at the bank.

Direct Debit/Electronic Transfer: To do so simply use the bank details below:

Acct: St Luke's Anglican Church BSB: 034-181 Acct Number: 810 226

Prayer for a new Bishop:

Eternal God, shepherd and guide,

In your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart

who will walk in your ways, and with loving care lead and watch over your people.

Give us we pray a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth, so that your Church may be built up, your kingdom extended, and your name glorified.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Treasury Project: (memory verses)

8th March: Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

15th March: Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Sunday 22nd March	1 Samuel 16:1-13 (pg283) Psalm 23 (pg548) Ephesians 5:8-14 (pg1176) John 9:1-41 (pg1074)
Sunday 29th March	Ezekiel 37:1-14 (pg865) Psalm 130 (pg618) Romans 8:6-11 (pg1132) John 11:1-45 (pg1076)
Sunday 5th April	Isaiah 50: 4-9 (pg732) Psalm 31 (pg552) Matthew 21:1-11 (pg988)
Sunday 12th April	Easter readings will be provided in subsequent bulletins.

Prayer Points: Please pray for;

Diocese of Sydney: Archbishop Glenn Davies, Assistant Bishops and all clergy and laity as they seek to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God in their region in these increasingly uncertain times. Please pray for their on-line services, that they will reach those who are lost and hurting as well as their regular congregations. Pray for innovation in how ministry is enabled and the gospel shared. Pray that God's name will be glorified in all activities, at all times and in all places.

Diocese of Central Queensland. Special Ministry District of Theodore: Please pray for the Administrator as he takes responsibility for this ministry district. Pray for those who are isolated without access to internet or social connections. Pray that the local church can be a light and blessing to their community at this time.

The persecuted Church in Syria: Where Islamic extremist groups operate openly, and where public expressions of Christian faith are prohibited. Pray for peace in times of conflict, that persecutors will experience the love of God and have their hearts changed, and that believers who remain in Syria will find joy and strength in God despite daily persecution.

Notepad thoughts: Our theme for 2020: Making Disciples. Discipleship in crisis.

There is no doubt that our society is experiencing unprecedented uncertainty. The rapid rise of COVID-19 has seen people purchasing household items and food at alarming rates, leaving store shelves empty of basic goods and rationing of potentially lifesaving medicines. In the land of mate-ship and a fair go we have witnessed widespread selfishness and opportunistic profiteering which has left many of us bewildered and breathless, and so soon after the generosity displayed during the bush fire crisis just a few short weeks ago. The media is updating us around the clock of developments across the globe, and our Government is rapidly tightening border control, internal movement and access to public gatherings. Right now, the cultural response contains a lot of fear and political wrangling - we need to be wary of both. Fear doesn't stay at fear, it quickly turns into anxiety, stress, selfishness, and even anger; and none of these glorify God. So how should we as disciples of Jesus respond in this rapidly changing environment?

Firstly to quote a member of QLD Health "We cannot pour from an empty bucket"; self-care is important! Be fed with the word of God daily, follow all guidelines for health and hygiene, get plenty of rest and remember to wash your hands (Christians believe in both the power of prayer and soap!)

Then you can:

- **Love your neighbour:** keep an eye on neighbours and friends. Set up a street Facebook page or text circle so that if someone is isolated or needs help then another member of the group can lend a hand. This breaks down barriers and builds community which is the environment in which discipleship will flourish naturally.
- **Use technology old and new:** Drop "praying for you" cards in the letter boxes of those who are isolated. Pick up the phone and check on elderly and/or isolated members of the congregation and/or those known to us. Use social media to be proactive with positive information, good gossip (positive news), and encouraging passages of scripture.
- **Pray:** Pray for the sick and vulnerable. Pray for families who have lost loved ones and for God to draw a line with this pandemic. Pray for wisdom for our leaders at all levels of Government. Pray for Healthcare workers. Pray for hearts to be turned to God - that those far from God will come near to God as they search for certainty in an uncertain world. And most importantly pray that God be glorified in all things and at all times.
- **Be ready to share the reason for your peace and certainty:** If you stand firm on the Rock of your salvation, if you experience and demonstrate His peace, if you love and step forward whilst others hoard and isolate; then people will ask you what sets you apart, and that is where we may share our faith and hope with those who are lost.

Christians throughout the ages have faced uncertain times, from plagues and persecution to cold wars and atomic bombs. It is in these times and places that we have seen hearts changed and Christianity flourish. For almost 2000 years, whenever fear and anxiety has arisen Christians have stepped in where the culture around them had stepped out.

And we can do the same today!

Let's work to His praise and Glory in the times ahead. , Rev'd Jen



Trust in the Lord
with all your heart:
do not lean on your
own understanding.
See His will in all you
do, and He will
direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6