



### Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 275, MP 613, TIS 447, TIS 531)

Sunday 9 am: Family Communion (also streamed via ZOOM\*)

(Hymns: MP 162, Spirit of God, TIS 418, MP 1003)

\* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).  
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

*Rev'd Timothy writes...*

This Sunday we continue in the season of Epiphany with the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. The Eastern church regards Jesus' baptism, the Father and Spirit's affirmation of the Son's divinity at the beginning of his public ministry, as the great message of the Epiphany, and celebrates this on 6<sup>th</sup> January rather than on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany as we do in the Western Church.

The Eastern celebration of Epiphany includes many liturgical hymns that call to mind what Jesus' baptism means. These include the Troparion and the Kontakion:

*When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee. ...*

*On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.*

It also inspires much modern iconography, such as the one pictured above by George Kordis (Greece, 1956–). Here, instead of the river Jordan at Christ's feet, there's a serpent being crushed, a reference to Psalm 74:13: "You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters." Visually, this recalls the Eastern church's Resurrection icon, which depicts Christ breaking down the doors of hell, flattening Satan.

For more contemporary Eastern icons of the Epiphany see:

<https://artandtheology.org/2018/01/06/contemporary-icons-of-the-baptism-of-christ/>



Given the current increase in the presence of COVID, if you are feeling unwell please stay home and rest. You can join our 9am service on Zoom. Details of how to do this are included with the weekly parish email.

If you are rostered for a task, don't worry, we will fill your spot.



## Readings for the Baptism of Jesus

### *First reading (7am only)*

A reading from the book of Genesis

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Genesis 1:1-5*

### *Psalms 29*

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:

ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:  
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> He makes them skip like a calf:  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord divides the

lightning-flash:

the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,  
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,  
and strips bare the forests:  
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'

<sup>9</sup> The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:  
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will give strength to his people:  
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

### *Second Reading (7am & 9am)*

A reading from the book of Acts

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup> Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' <sup>4</sup> Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— <sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

*Acts 19:1-7*

## *Gospel reading*

A reading from the gospel of Mark

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming

after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

*Mark 1:4-11*

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## Reflect, Resist, Re-imagine

### Coming through the Waters

Epiphany can shake the foundations of our faith. We may wonder what to do next. The Season after the Epiphany will offer opportunities to incorporate the new, weave it into the old ways or let go of old beliefs entirely. This week, we focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in the wake of earth-shattering discoveries.

Genesis 1:1–5 Humans around the world have many accounts of the origins of peoples, places, problems. Genesis is a mysterious text that offers more than one story of creation. It begins with God creating something out of nothing by sorting things out. In this story, the very first act is to make a way for darkness and light to know their names and know their places. Darkness is called night and light is called day. As if Genesis weren't poetic enough, Psalm 29 offers a satisfying hymn about the voice of God moving across water, earth, fire, and people for the sake of blessing it all with God's presence. This voice calls forth the glory of trees and entire civilizations; it is the cause and control for much of what we experience. The passages work together this week to set the scene for stories of human encounters with the voice that orders the chaos that is around and in God's people.

In Acts 19:1–7, Paul has found a small group of Jesus' disciples who have not been taught about the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Paul offers a simple explanation that links the baptism of Jesus to the baptism of all believers. He offers them a new way to experience repentance and prophesy. They are baptized into the Holy Spirit, and

it is as if they feel a new order. They seem to have a new relationship with each other, Christ's story and to all of creation. Paul teaches that there is something more significant than the ritual cleansing for repentance. There is an added element, the Holy Spirit that makes us behave as part of a new creation, a new covenant.

The Holy Spirit is the key to understanding both the Acts passage and Mark 1:4–11. The gospel of Mark opens with the story of John's ministry before Jesus' baptism. Prophets rarely live ordinary lives; Mark's gospel makes it abundantly clear that John was no exception to this rule. Just like the God he serves, John understands how to make something out of nothing; a meal of locusts and honey, a robe of camel hair held together by a belt of leather cord. John used the Jordan River for ritual cleansing so his followers would remain humble. He insists they believe in the power of God to deliver them by way of a forthcoming prophet who wouldn't need water for ritual cleansing. "This prophet will baptize you with spirit!" he proclaims. "You won't need me or this great river!"

Jesus' baptism is just like the baptisms of John's followers, until he comes up out of the water. The sky seems to burst. A simple bird becomes the sign of God's presence resting on him. The familiar human they knew as nothing more than a simple man, friend, brother, and teacher is suddenly both son of Mary and Son of God.

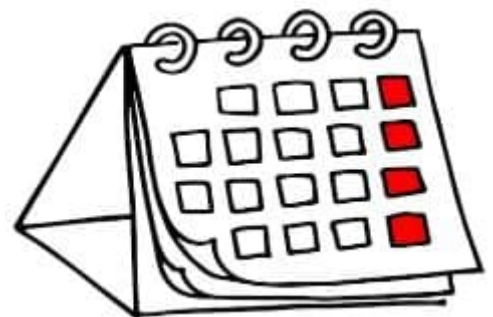
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Simple aspects of nature are put into new order when God speaks through them, and there are new identities for ordinary people when the spirit of God is evident in or through them. It is as if the passing season has shed new light on old questions about who we are and how we will behave. The Season after the Epiphany offers us a time to explore this as a call from our old habits and into a fresh start. How will you respond to the needs of the people and planet in this Season after the Epiphany?

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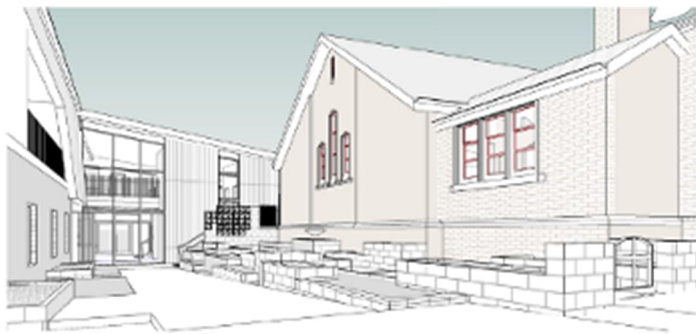
## Dates for your diary

- 14<sup>th</sup> January: 5pm – Service of Evening prayer to mark the closure of the Memorial Garden
- 31<sup>st</sup> January: 9.30am – St Luke's Connect
- 4<sup>th</sup> February: 7am and 9am – Episcopal Visit by the Rt Rev'd John Roundhill
- 13<sup>th</sup> February: 6pm – Pancake Dinner for Shrove Tuesday (venue TBA)
- 14<sup>th</sup> February: 9.30am and 6.30pm – Services for Ash Wednesday
- 18<sup>th</sup> February: 10.30am – Annual Parish Meeting



## Redevelopment News

Following the successful tender result that we received last month, the diocesan team are moving on with preparing the contract and we can expect the builders on site in February 2024.



Between now and then there are a number of things that we must do:

### Memorial Garden:

A service of Evening Prayer to formally close the current garden will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm. After this (but before the builders come onto our site) all the ashes will be removed and stored securely under the church until they can be reinterred in the new Memorial Garden at the end of the project.

### Halls and office clear out:

Working bees will be held on Saturdays 13, 20, 27 January and 3 February to clear out the halls and parish centre. We will decide what is rubbish (and a skip will be ordered later in the month), what needs keeping, but accessible during the build (will be stored at the Rectory) and what needs storing until the conclusion of the build. All are welcome to come along and help whenever you are available.

### Prayer:

Please join with me in giving thanks to God that our redevelopment project is now going ahead, and pray for all that needs to be done in both the preparation for the build, and to keep our ministries going during the build.

## HAMEL THE CAMEL WANTS YOU!

Do you enjoy working with children in a fun, Christian focused way?

Do you have an interest in working with the future of our church?

If you said yes to these questions – Hamel the Camel, Lamba the lamb and their friends Sharon and David would like to invite you to a brief planning chat (with coffee) in the lower hall on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30. We will be mapping out the 2024 year for Children's Church and would love you to be involved.

Even if you are not sure if this ministry is for you, come along and have a chat – NO OBLIGATION – We would also welcome parishioner feedback on the Children's Church involvement in services during 2023.



# For our Prayers

## *Prayer for the day*

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptised into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

## *The World*

Pray for those affected by the storms in eastern Australia and for those helping with the clear-up.

## *Anglican Communion*

The Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Brisbane: †Jeremy Greaves; Assistant Bishops: †Cameron Venables, †John Roundhill, Locum Bishop: †Bill Ray; Clergy and People

The Parish of Toowoomba, St James: Mark Carlyon, Melissa Conway, Bev Thorogood, John Pryce-Davies, Garth Shaw, David Snape, Laurel Raymond, Matthew Weatherley, Frances Andrews

Anglicare SQ Community Aged & Disability, Brisbane South (Woolloongabba)

Hillbrook Anglican School, Enoggera: Acting Principal – Mark Herriman; Chaplain – David Adams; Chair of School Council – Robert Seljak; members of School Council; staff & students

## *Our missionary partners*

Robyn Maxwell, the chaplain at Wellers Hill State School.

## *Our parish*

Pray for the work necessary this month to prepare our buildings for the start of the redevelopment project.

## *Local Schools & Colleges*

Wellers Hill Primary, Junction Park Primary, Moorooka Primary.

All school staff and children on vacation.

## ***Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed***

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn McElnea, June McNicol, Ash and Joh, Cathy, Janette Hagerty, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Rose White

## *From the Parish Book of Remembrance*

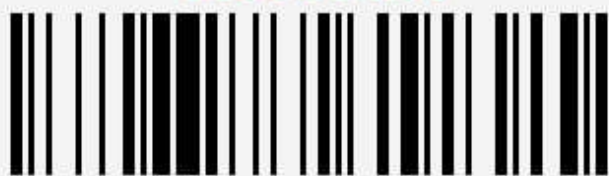
*10 January:* Graham Houston; *11 January:* Ronald Victor Casey; *12 January:* Joan Audrey Crittall; *13 January:* Una Joy.

## Containers for Change

Our parish has already collected and returned over \$380 worth of bottles and cans through the 10c refund scheme. Now that the scheme has been extended to include glass wine and spirit bottles from 150ml to 3L, this means that there are many more items that we can return for credit.

Please continue to bring your eligible containers to the lower hall, or if you would prefer take them yourself to a collection point and use the parish code below. The nearest collection point is Tomra, 9/655 Toohey Road, Salisbury.

C10686424



## Annual Reports

Reports for the Annual Report Book are due by 28<sup>th</sup> January. Please submit as Word documents to [admin@stlukesekibin.org.au](mailto:admin@stlukesekibin.org.au)

## Services This Week:

Tuesday—Friday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

1.30pm Holy Communion at Regis

Sunday 14th January 2024

*(2nd Sunday after Epiphany)*

7am: Holy Communion


9am: Family Communion (St Lukes's / Zoom)


*No Children's Church (but children ALWAYS welcome)*


5pm: Service of Evening Prayer to formally close the Memorial Garden

*Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-5,12-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51*

## Keep in touch:

 [priest@stlukesekibin.org.au](mailto:priest@stlukesekibin.org.au)  
(Rector, Rev'd Timothy)


 [admin@stlukesekibin.org.au](mailto:admin@stlukesekibin.org.au) (Office)

 [families@stlukesekibin.org.au](mailto:families@stlukesekibin.org.au)  
(Children's church)

 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

 P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121

 [www.stlukesekibin.org.au](http://www.stlukesekibin.org.au)

 @stlukesekibin

Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)

Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

## Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):  
Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820

BSB 704 901

Or scan the QR  
code to give  
online:



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