

Together



Friday 27 August 2021

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Website

www.stlukesbelmont.com.au

Email

belmontuca@gmail.com

Administration Assistant

Katy Burfield
4945 4655 - office
Tues 9am - 5.30pm
Fri 9am - 5.30pm



We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land

All services and activities at St Luke's are suspended due to public health orders until 10.9.21

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Prv 22:1-23 Ps 125 Jas 2:1-17 Mk 7:24-37

Onsite internet: St Luke's Guest - no password required



Bank transfer option for your weekly offerings

If you would like to transfer your offerings into the St Luke's Uniting Church giving account the details follow.

All transfers are anonymous.

BSB: 634 634

Account No. 100028307

Account name: St Luke's Uniting-Giving Acc

Thank you for supporting the St Luke's Uniting Church!

1 Carnival Date Clarification

Last week we advised that the Carnival would not be held on Saturday 16th October due to the uncertainty of Covid restrictions, and that early next year we would re-assess the situation before deciding on a new date. However, from comments we have heard this week, some understood this message to mean that the Carnival would be held early next year. So to clarify, no date has been set for our Carnival as yet, however, early next year depending on the circumstances, we will set a date for our 50th Carnival for 2022.

2 Dinner Church

We are hoping to start Dinner Church on 10 October - Covid-19 restrictions permitting



We are starting a new Sunday Evening Gathering at St Luke's. We are calling it Dinner Church because it will be held on Sunday Evenings (starting at 5.30pm) and will involve a simple shared meal, which will be provided. We will meet in the Gathering Area.

For the time being we will continue to have two morning Services each Sunday so coming to Dinner Church can be either an alternative or in addition to Sunday Morning Worship.

3 Office news

I will be working from home during the lockdown. The office will not be manned, and the office phone will only be monitored for voice mail periodically. Emails will be checked daily so please use this method of communication. Together will only be available online.

4 Fellowship Update

The planned speaker for the cancelled September Fellowship meeting, Dr. Robyn Fried has agreed to postpone her visit until our November meeting.

Keep in touch with one another and keep safe,
Jan Kellahan and Marjorie Hicks

5 Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday greetings to Jan Kellahan who will celebrate a special birthday on Friday the 3rd September.

6 Covid Update

You may already be aware that the NSW government earlier this week **extended the current lockdown** in NSW until **Friday 10th September 2021**. This means that places of worship must remain closed. The only exceptions are: (1) funerals, which are restricted to ten people plus those involved in conducting the funeral, and (2) using places of worship to live stream a service.

“Services may be live-streamed from a church, meeting house, mosque, synagogue, temple or other place of worship that is not open to members of the public. You can attend the premises if you are directly involved in the service or the operation of the equipment for the live-stream event.



“Two people may sing or chant during the live-streaming of the service, if

- there are no more than two other people in the room or designated area while they are singing
- people in the room, other than the singers, wear a face mask.

“While singing, the singers

- must be 3 metres away from anyone else at the place of public worship
- are not required to wear a face mask.”

7 Pray for Afghanistan



Afghanistan is now held by the Taliban.

Amidst the heartbreaking news and images we see coming from the country, our prayers are needed now more than ever.

Knowing how to pray in these situations can be hard. Here are 6 ways you can pray with Afghanistan today, and how to pray when you don't have the words.

6 WAYS TO PRAY WITH AFGHANISTAN

- 1. Please pray for believers in the region.** Pray that they find strength, wisdom, and supernatural peace in God's promises. Pray that believers will receive the pastoral care that they need.
- 2. Pray for the displaced.** A new wave of refugees is expected to come from Afghanistan to many parts of the Middle East and the rest of the world. Pray for God's protection and provision over them in their journeys.

3. Pray for the women. Many women fear that the Taliban rule would mean they would be stripped of opportunities for education. Women involved in education during the past years could also be at risk – pray for their protection.

4. Pray for the children. Pray for the schools and educational programs, that somehow they will function. And pray that God will preserve the dignity and wellness of the children, by raising up bold, prophetic warriors who will guard children's safety and fight for their protection from all kinds of abuses.

5. Pray for food to be accessible and affordable. People are struggling right now, because supply chains have broken down – as they are slowly reinitiated, inflation and access is becoming a problem.

6. Pray for health and wellness. There is no certainty as to how the healthcare system will be able to sustain itself with the new Taliban government. Pray that the healthcare system will not collapse. Medicines are in short supply. Pray that clean water continues to run in taps – if water becomes contaminated in the cities, there will be widespread disease and illness.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

And what if you run out of words? What if you don't have enough information to pray?

“Then pray the Bible”, a local friend in the region says.

“Pray for the Esthers, that they can provide protection for the one they love. Pray for the Samuels, who may hear God's voice calling out to them. Pray that they will say: ‘Here I am, Lord’.

“Pray for Christian Davids, men with a warrior heart. Pray for the Lydias, faithful women serving the church.

Pray for the Abrahams leading their families. Pray for the Noahs, Daniels, Ruths, Naomis, Peters, Pauls, Marys and Marthas. “Pray for each character in the Bible and their Afghan equivalents.

“Pray the Psalms of praise and the Psalms of lament. Pray the desperate words of Job and the comforting words of Jesus on the mount. Pray for visions of Jesus on the cross and visions of Jesus in heaven, welcoming those who have conquered the world.”

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - *1 Thessalonians 5:17-18*

