

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Today Car Rally from 1.30pm
Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am
Parish Council meet @ 7pm
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am
ACA Group meet @ 6pm

CHRISTMAS FAIR – is fast approaching on 1st November. Please could you start bringing in food, drink and pamper items that can go into the hampers which will be raffled on the day. Plus eggs, brown sugar, mixed fruit, butter etc for baking. If you usually make jams, preserves, pickled onions, or plant seedlings **Herbs** – Basil - Aust or Thai; Parsley - Aust or Italian; Coriander. **Flowers** – Petunias, Sweet William, Marigolds, anything that looks pretty but not pansies. **Vegetables** - Onions white and brown; Capsicums; Chillies; Tomatoes; Lettuce it's not too early to start putting them together. Please let Nola know what you've planted.

THANK YOU SUNDOWNER – on Saturday 11th October at 4.30pm. We really value the way our community works together to help keep St John's a welcoming space for people to come together and explore their faith. To do this we have people who undertake various jobs each Sunday, some who help keep the building and grounds spick and span, others who help run groups that meet on a weekly basis. This Sundowner is our way to say a huge THANK YOU. If you'd like to come along, please put your name on the list in the Hall.

Please pray for: Paul; Keena; Cheryl; Isla; Charlotte; Marilyn; Gavin; Annette; Eric; Lynn; Cameron; Joyce; Kate; Gazza; Mel & family; Graham & Deidre



This week Johnny is with Helen & Scott Black



Happy birthday to Leigh Ryding on 20th

Wardens - Phil Goulding Phone: 9247 4978

Judith Smith Phone: 9246 3745

Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler Phone: 0421 115 438

Work Days - Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday

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Welcome to Worship



PENTECOST 14

14th September 2025

We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- Know God personally
- Love and respect one another deeply
- Disciple and serve those around us

Sentence: I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Collect of the Day

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God,
exultant you bring home the found:
touch our hearts with grateful wonder
at the tenderness of your forbearing love;
grant us delight in the mercy that has found us;
and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiven
sinners. We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and
ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Ps 14

1 Tim 1

Luke 15:1-10

Next Week:

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Ps 79:1-9

1 Tim 2:1-10

Luke 16:1-13



Pentecost 14 C – Luke 15:1-10

“Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep . . . because I have found the coin that I lost . . . because your brother was lost and has been found.”

The three “parables of the lost” in chapter 15 are unique to Luke’s Gospel. Luke wrote his Gospel at a time when the Christian community was embroiled in a great controversy: many Jewish Christians were indignant that Gentiles should be welcomed into the Church without first embracing the traditions and laws of Judaism.

In these three parables, we enter God’s world: God communicates the depth of his love in his unconditional and complete forgiveness; his mercy breaks through and demolishes all human restrictions. The Pharisees could not imagine a God who actually sought out men and women, a God who is more merciful in his judgments than we are, a God who never gives up hope for a sinner.

Today’s Gospel reading of chapter 15 includes three parables:

The parable of the lost sheep: Shepherding demanded toughness and courage – it was not a job for the weak and fearful. Responsible for every sheep in his charge, a shepherd was expected to fight off everything from wild animals to armed poachers. Shepherds often had to negotiate the rugged terrain of the wilderness to rescue a lost sheep. Like the responsible shepherd, God does

whatever is necessary to seek out and bring back to his loving providence every lost soul.

The parable of the lost coin: Finding a small silver coin in a dark, dusty, dirt-floored Judean house was nearly impossible, but so great was the value of any coin to the poor that a woman would turn her poor hovel inside out in search of such a lost treasure. So great is the value of every soul in the sight of God that he, too, goes to whatever lengths necessary to find and bring back the lost.

The parable of prodigal son: This is probably the most inaccurately titled story in all of literature. Jesus’ tale is really about the great love of the prodigal’s father, who forgives his son and joyfully welcomes him home even before the son can bring himself to ask. The father’s joy stands in sharp contrast to the prodigal son’s brother, who cannot even bring himself to call the prodigal his “brother” – in confronting his father, he angrily refers to the brother as “this son of yours.” But the father is a model of joyful reconciliation that Jesus calls his disciples to seek in all relationships.

What is striking in the three stories is the joy experienced by the shepherd who finds the lost lamb, the woman who recovers the missing coin, the father who welcomes home his wayward son.

The most extraordinary element of Jesus’ teaching is the revelation of a God who loves each and every one of us uniquely and individually, as a parent loves his/her most beloved child. God’s love for us is eternally forgiving, constantly inviting, never limited or conditional.

Our God is a God of inclusion – yet we sometimes make him a God of exclusion, excluding from our own presence those we deem as unworthy or unfaithful to be included among “God’s people.”

To forgive as Christ forgives is impossible to do on our own: It calls for a spirit of humility, a generosity, a spirit of compassion that is beyond most of us. But we are not called by Christ to create forgiveness on our own. God has already forgiven, we are being asked to participate in God’s gift of forgiveness that surrounds every one of us.

Grace is the experience of God’s complete and unconditional love in our lives. Sometimes we experience grace in the support and love of generous family and friends — and sometimes we are the agents of such grace, giving and doing whatever is necessary for the good of another, refusing to give up our search to find the lost and bring back those from whom we have been separated.

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