



**23 OCTOBER 2022**

Welcome to worship this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## **Lectionary Readings**

**This week 23 October, 2022**

Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

**Next week 30 October, 2022**

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

## **Ladies Bible Study**

Ladies Bible Study has re-scheduled last week's meeting and will meet this Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel, and they are looking at Study 3 "From Generation to Generation" - Psalm 78:1-8.

## **Church Council**

Church Council will meet on Thursday afternoon at 4.30pm in the chapel.

## **THE CROWN OF LIFE**

Bible reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 & 16-18,

The mighty Apostle Paul is in Rome under house arrest. At any time the soldiers of the Emperor would appear at his door to take him away to be beheaded. Included in this passage is his epitaph. *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day and not only me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

For Paul, the time had come to review his life. Had he achieved his optimum potential, or had he settled for second best? Paul had been falsely charged and imprisoned, stoned, beaten, shipwrecked, snake bitten and was finally to be beheaded. A thousand times or more, he may well have been tempted to renounce the faith and return to the seminary in Jerusalem or to his family's tent making business in Tarsus. But he remained a loyal apostle.

Paul had given everything to God. His money, his friends, his family, his scholarship, his prestige as a Pharisee, his strength, and soon, he would offer his very life. All for the love of Christ.

Paul's letter was not to hype himself up to face his executioner, but to encourage young Timothy to remain faithful to Christ and to the burgeoning Church.

It is therefore a love letter to us all, across time and space, to remind us, and to encourage us, to live our best lives for Christ. To be His people in the world. Within our relationships, within our work places, within our families, within our church, within our community. That will look different to each of us, but we are called to be encouraged by Paul as he wrote....

*"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."*

I pray that can be our legacy when our time finally arrives. A legacy we can all work on this very day.  
- Adrian



## Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162

Office Phone: 9636 3245

Email: [office@greystanesuniting.org.au](mailto:office@greystanesuniting.org.au)

Website: [www.greystanesuniting.org.au](http://www.greystanesuniting.org.au)

## Gail's Message

At the beginning of this past week I attended a Phase Three Ministers retreat at St Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre at Kincumber, just past Gosford. The centre is set in bushland by an estuary, and it is a place of peace and beauty. Most of my days were spent in conversation with fellow ministers who all, like me, are in their first placements as ordained ministers. This was a great joy but also extremely tiring.

In order to balance myself emotionally and spiritually I spent some time alone in nature, walking the trail around the water's edge. The trail can be utilised as a Stations of the Cross meditation, but it also has areas to sit and contemplate an idea or thought. Along the path are wooden signs with little quotes, many attributed to Mary MacKillop, whose Order of Sisters was granted the land at Kincumber to house and educate homeless boys.

One of the quotes puzzled me and I am still trying to figure out its meaning. "Try always to be generous with God. Mary Mackillop 1882."



Does this mean we should be generous to God, giving God our hearts and souls and minds, allowing God to come into our lives with a spirit of generous hospitality? (Romans 12:1-2, Mark 12:29-30). The opposite of this could then be described as being 'stingy with God', only paying attention to the place of God in our lives when it suits us, or when we feel like we have the time.

Does it mean we should be sharing the love of God with others, being generous stewards of the boundless love we are gifted in Christ? (1 John 4:7-8)

Does it mean both? This coming week think about which of these aspects of being generous speaks to you, read what the Scriptures have to say about generosity and may God's loving Spirit encourage, guide, and strengthen you.