



**27 AUGUST 2023**

## Welcome

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

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 27 August, 2023

Exodus 1:8—2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

### Next week 3 September, 2023

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

## Fathers' Day Breakfast

Our Child Care Centre is hosting a Fathers' Day Breakfast on Thursday morning from 7.30am. This is a great opportunity to interact with the families of our Child Care Centre and we would encourage anyone who is available to come along and enjoy an egg and bacon roll and meet the families of our centre.

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel. This week's study will be the first in their new series, 'A Life of Love'.

## Our 50th Anniversary

On Sunday 17th September we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Greystanes Uniting Church. A lot of things have changed over the past fifty years including ourselves. If you have a photo of yourself in or around 1973 could you please send it to Gail in digital format, with permission to use it within our special service of celebration? ([revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au](mailto:revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au) or 0407269162)

If you have family or friends who might be interested in attending, please invite them to join us.

## Cumberland 4 Common Good

Cumberland 4 Common Good is a community-driven group that actively engages with local government to address issues and create positive changes for people in the Cumberland Local Government Area.

They are hosting a Community Forum at Merrylands Baptist Church on Tuesday 12 September from 6.30-9.00pm.

Details of issues to be discussed and RSVP contacts are on the flyer on the back noticeboard.



## Greystanes Uniting Church

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## Gail's Message

Over the next few months my Grapevine Entry will address the question Jesus asks his disciples in Matthew 16:15, 'Who do you say I am?' As followers of Christ we need to be able to answer this question, not only for the sake of our own salvation but in order to tell others our faith story. I hope and pray that the extracts you will read from *Sharing your Story* will give you the confidence to gently share your faith.

### Introduction

*Storytelling. Jesus did it. The Old Testament prophets did it. The Gospel writers did it. Human beings have been telling stories to each other since the beginning of time. In the early days it was simply sitting around a fire sharing stories. Everyday events became stories to tell children. Scribes, and priests told stories of religious affairs, and leaders told heroic tales of their adventures. Some of those stories were so powerful that they took on a life of their own and became legends. Some of them fill up our history books, some are integral to culture, and some are embedded in our family values. No fancy equipment, no elaborate props, no information technology, just a storyteller and her voice.*

*The art of storytelling is not new, long before any written languages, every culture had its "oral tradition" — stories that were passed on through the generations. The Bible was part of Jewish oral tradition before it was written down. Even the stories of Jesus existed orally for decades before the first written Gospel appeared. All that is required is a storyteller and a listening ear.*

*Stories help us explain everything in our experience, from science to relationships, from feelings to memories, and from questions to objections. Yet when it comes to telling the greatest story of all time – a story that has the power to change lives – Christians often hesitate. Most of us would rather share stories about our favourite restaurant, movie, book, sports team, or travel destination than to discuss our faith journey. And yet, it is that very story that has changed our lives – the story of Jesus Christ. We should be able to tell this story with clarity, and be excited to tell it to everyone, especially to our family and friends. In those times when we hesitate, I've found it's not that we don't want to tell the story; more often it's that we don't know how to tell it? Whether you're new to faith or a seasoned Bible scholar, your personal story of following Jesus (your story) is one of the most powerful ways to share your faith. You don't need to be an eloquent preacher with a pulpit or a famous evangelist with an out-of-this-world story. It just requires that you share your story in a simple, clear way that communicates the love of God to other people. Simply sharing how Jesus changed your life can be the catalyst to seeing others changed by Him.*  
Rev Kesh Rico Govan. Canon for Fresh Expression and Ministry Innovation.  
Next time: the 'do's' of how to share your story.