



**3 SEPTEMBER 2023**



## Welcome

Happy Fathers' Day to all our dads and honorary dads, we hope you have a great day !

## Lectionary Readings

**This week 3 September, 2023**

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

**Next week 10 September, 2023  
(Holy Communion)**

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

## Ladies Bible Study

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

## Fair Trade Market

North Rocks Community Church, 132 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks, are hosting a Fair Trade Market on 23rd September between 9 and 2pm.

## Our 50th Anniversary

On Sunday 17th September we will celebrate the 50th 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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## **THE GREAT REBUKE**

### Matthew 16: 21-28

Although the disciples had grasped the fact that Jesus was God's Messiah, the Son of God, they still had not grasped what that actually meant. Their idea of the Messiah was understood in terms of a conquering King, coming to sweep the Romans from Palestine and lead Israel to power. Before they could preach that Jesus was the Messiah, they had to learn what it meant.

So Jesus began to seek to open their eyes to the fact that for him, there was no way, but the way of the Cross. He said that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer at the hands of the "Elders and Chief priests and scribes." In effect, Jesus was saying that he must suffer at the hands of the religious leaders of the country. Not at all what Peter had envisaged!

What Peter thought he knew was not what Jesus knew. Jesus had "the big picture" in mind. Peter had something in mind, that to him, made perfect sense. He thought that Jesus had positioned himself to take over the country and free the Jews to rule themselves.

But Jesus had the long game in mind. He knew that Peter's way would not save mankind but would make a few people happy. Jesus knew that God's way would deal with salvation for all people for all time. Peter had a warped and short-term understanding and focus.

Jesus knew that his way was God's way. It meant suffering and pain, but, thank God, he was willing to take it, even against the best advice of his friends and followers. His way was the way of forgiveness and absolute love.

Even in your current short-term suffering, whatever that may be for you today, be assured that God's love for you is never ending. He suffered for you. He knows what suffering is, and overcame it, once and for all, for you and everyone who believes in him.

Let God embrace you, not rebuke you, as you continue to seek and do his will. - Adrian