



Greystanes Grapevine

The weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



14 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Lectionary Readings

This week 14 September, 2025

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Next week 21 September, 2025

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet in the chapel on Tuesday at 3pm. They are looking at Study 5—'Dividing lines and drawing in the dust' John 7:1—8:30. All ladies are welcome to join them.

Prayer Reminder

A reminder that you are invited to pray daily during September as we seek to discern God's plan for our congregation.

Church Family Trivia & Games Night Saturday 20th September 6pm to 8pm.

You are invited to our Church Family Trivia and Games Night next Saturday starting at 6pm.

There will be 6 rounds of trivia with fun games in between.
Pizza for dinner. Tea, coffee and soft drinks supplied.

Bring your own snacks. RSVP: Lola or Gail

YOU'RE INVITED TO

An Evening of Hope

DINNER & FUNDRAISER



Please join us for a meaningful evening in support of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia, helping to uphold the dignity and rights of refugees and people seeking asylum.

Listen to inspiring guest speakers and live entertainment, win raffle prizes, and be treated to a delicious multi course meal.

A *Companions on the Journey* Mass will also be held beforehand at 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. All are welcome.

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2025 • 7:00PM ARRIVAL FOR 7:30PM START
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH HALL, 1 MARIST PLACE
TICKETS: \$160 EACH, OR \$1200 FOR A TABLE OF 8
RSVP'S ESSENTIAL. [CLICK HERE](#) OR [SCAN THE QR CODE](#)



 JRS AUSTRALIA
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE



Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162
revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au

Office Phone: 9636 3245
Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

A Reflection on Luke 15 from: *To Be Lost and Found* — Center for Action and Contemplation

Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel gives us three memorable parables of God's mercy: Jesus tells of the shepherd who rejoices at finding a lost sheep, of the woman who rejoices at finding her lost coin (note the feminine image of God), of the father who rejoices at the return of his prodigal son. These are all images of a loving God being true to God's nature. They are all images of God's justice.

As we can see from these examples, God's justice requires God to go beyond Godself and extend love to others. The shepherd doesn't just wait until the lost sheep wanders back. The woman doesn't just forget about the coin until it shows up. The father doesn't just go about his business; he watches the road every day until his son returns so he can go out to welcome him home. God's love is relentlessly just: God never gives up on those who have forgotten God's love.

Author Debie Thomas reflects on what these "lost and found" parables reveal about God:

We get lost. We get so miserably lost that the shepherd has to wander through the craggy wilderness to find us. We get so wholly lost that the housewife has to light her lamp, pick up her broom, and sweep out every nook and cranny of her house to discover what's become of us. For the record, these versions of lostness aren't trivial. Notice that the searching in these parables is not a show.... What's lost is really, truly lost—even though the seeker is God.

Can we pause for a moment and take in how astonishing this is? God faces genuine stakes when it comes to our lostness. God experiences authentic, real-time loss. God searches, persists, lingers, and plods. God wanders over hills and valleys looking for lost lambs. God turns her house upside down looking for her lost coin....

Maybe the most scandalous aspect of these lost-and-found parables is not that I still get lost. Maybe what's most scandalous is what they reveal about the nature of God...If Jesus's parables are true, then God isn't in the fold with the ninety-nine insiders. God isn't curled up on her couch polishing the nine coins she's already sure of. God is where the lost things are.

God is in the wilderness, God is in the remotest corners of the house, God is where the search is at its fiercest. If I want to find God, I have to seek the lost. I have to *get* lost. I have to leave the safety of the inside and venture out. I have to recognize my own lostness and consent to be found....

God looks for us when our lostness is so convoluted and so profound, we can't even pretend to look for God. But even in such bleak and hopeless places, God finds us. This is amazing grace. And it is ours.