

Ayia Kyriaki, Kato Paphos; St. Luke's Prodromi and St. Stephen's, Tala

A Parish in the DIOCESE OF CYPRUS AND THE GULF

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed, through Jesus, to sharing God's love for all peoples and growing in our love for Him and for one another.

Sunday 17th March 2019 Second of Lent - Year C

Parish Priest: The Reverend Andrew Burtt

Interim Assoc. Priest: The Revd Canon Anthony Stidolph

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS
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Readings for Sunday 17th March

Page Numbers for St. Stephen's only

First Reading: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 -- Page 10

Psalm: Psalm 27 -- Page 393

Second Reading: Philippians 3: 17-4: 1 -- Page 832

Gospel: Luke 13: 31-35 -- Page 739

Organ Music for both services at Ayia Kyriaki

Before: Resonet in Lauibus - Pastorale - P.G. Kreckelel

After: Hanover - S. Vann

Sunday 24th March

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9 -- Page 524
Psalm: Psalm 63: 1-8 -- Page 409

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 -- Page 811

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9 -- Page 738

COLLECT & PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anglican Communion: We pray for the victims, and their friends and relatives, of the tragic Ethiopian Airlines crash last Sunday; "May God strengthen you and all people in this time of sorrow with the hope that the ministry of the churches across the world can be instrumental in comforting the families and all those who mourn the sudden death of this group of people."

Our Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East: We pray for the Rt Revd Michael Lewis and our Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf; for St. Paul's and St. Christopher's Cathedrals, their people, their Deans and clergy, and their Canons.

Our Diocese: This week we pray for Christ Church Ayia Napa; the Revd Martin Phillips-Last, their congregations and their active Migrant Worker group. As they pray for God's guidance and help in their personal lives and in the life of His Church; Lord send your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them in their journey with all the men and women of the Diocese.

In our own Parish of Paphos: We pray for our Parish Priest the Reverend Andrew, our Interim Associate Priest the Revd Canon Anthony, and members of our worship team. Help us all, during this time of Lent by self-examination, repentance, prayer, and study of the Scriptures to come closer to our Lord and Saviour. We pray for our Wardens and Church Council members, both those staying on and those recently elected, may God bless their endeavours. Finally, a prayer for each one of us in our Lenten devotions: "Grant O Lord that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives." Amen.

WHAT'S GOING ON TODAY AND THIS WEEK

Sunday 17th March

8.15am Holy Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki
9.30am Holy Communion - St. Luke's
11.00am Holy Communion - St. Stephen's
6.00pm Holy Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki

Tuesday 19th March

7.00 for 7.30pm Beetle Drive/Meal - Yiannis Taverna, Kathikas

Wednesday 20th March

9.00am Holy Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki

Thursday 21st March

1030 for 1100am - Lent Course - Session 2 - Parish Priest's House

3.00pm Women's Group Meeting - St. Stephen's

Friday 22nd March

2.00pm Craft and Coffee - St. Stephen's

Saturday 23rd March

11.00am Lent Course - Session 3 - St. Luke's

Sunday 24th March

8.15am Holy Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki
9.30am Holy Communion - St. Luke's
11.00am Morning Worship - St. Stephen's
6.00pm Holy Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki

THIS PARISH OF OURS

Duty Wardens for this week

Ayia Kyriaki - Trisha Payne

St. Stephen's - Bryn Jones

St. Luke's - Jayne Preston

Gift Aid can boost Church finances: If you pay UK income or capital gains tax please help the Church by using the blue Gift Aid envelopes for your Open Plate donations. This will add approximately 25% to any donations you make, as the Church can reclaim the basic rate of tax from your donations. If you are or intend to donate via the Pledge Giving Scheme, you can complete a one-off Gift Aid declaration. **Please ask for a pen if you need one.**

To make a Gift Aid declaration, you will need to pay UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in any tax year greater than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your Gift Aid donations in that year, or you will be responsible for any difference. Income tax includes tax credits on UK

dividend income. Boosting the Church income in this way will be a very welcome additional contribution to finances.

For our visitors and any residents eligible to Gift Aid:

PLEASE, if you are putting your donation in a Gift Aid envelope, would you make sure that the details on the front of the envelope are completed; if this is not done, we are unable to claim the tax refund.

GENERAL NOTICES

Lent Courses: Dates and Times: There are now two courses running in the parish. It is not too late to join a group.

A discussion group meets at **St Luke's in Polis** on Saturday mornings beginning at 1100. The next session, Session 3, will be on Saturday 23rd March and then Session 4 – Saturday 30th March 1100, and Session 5 – Saturday 13th April. Soup and Rolls will be served after each session with donations taken for the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic and the St Luke's rent fund. You do not have to belong to St Luke's to join this discussion group.

Paphos Course: This course is being held at the parish house on Thursday mornings 1030 for 1100. The next session will be session 2 on Thursday 21st March. Session 3 will be on Thursday 28st March 1030 for 1100, Session 4 – Thursday 4st April 1030 for 1100, and Session 5 Thursday 11st April 1030 for 1100. Soup and rolls will be served at the end of each session with donations taken for the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic. If you need directions to the Parish house, please email The Reverend Andrew: chaplain.acp@cytanet.com.cy.

Remember, anyone in the parish is welcome to go to either course but because the dates and sessions do not matchup, it will be difficult to swop between the two courses. If you have not yet signed up, please do so, this Sunday.

Lent Offering/Donations: it is a Lent tradition that a parish collection is taken during Lent for a nominated charity. Council agreed that we should,

again, support the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic in the Yemen. This is an eye clinic that our Diocese has long supported (the country of Yemen is part of our Diocese) and the report from Synod stated that despite the brutal civil war in the country, the Eye Clinic continues to function, fully, in every respect. You have been generous in support of this clinic, in the past, and I commend it to you, again. This is a clinic staffed entirely by Muslims who are immensely grateful for the financial support from Christians, in this Diocese, and are very appreciative of your prayers for their safety and work. Please be generous in your support.

A basket with Lent Offering envelopes, for your use, is available near the entrance at all three of our Worship Centres for your offerings. Please do give as generously as you can to our Lent charity: the Ras Morbat Clinic. Thank you.

Synod 2019: To find out more about what is going on in our Diocese and what went on at Synod 2019 do have a read of Scene@Synod which can be seen on our church website, the address is on the front page of this notice sheet > News > Diocesan Happenings and download the publication Scene@Synod.

Urgently wanted!

Does anyone have an upright piano [working or not working] that we could borrow/purchase/rent for our next Stage One production 'When We Are Married' please? We will arrange transportation. If you can help, please contact Peter Sandwith on 99984035. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR TODAY, THIS WEEK & NEXT SUNDAY

Recycled cards: Sue and Lou will be selling their recycled cards today **Sunday 17th March** after the 8.15am service at Ayia Kyriaki and after the 11am service at St. Stephen's. They make wonderful cards so do please

come have a browse and, hopefully, replenish your stocks of cards thereby helping local charities in the process.

Women's Group Meeting: Our next meeting is being hosted by Ayia Kyriaki and held at St. Stephen's Church, Tala on 21st March at 3 pm. Our Speaker is Ala Khalil who is the founder of the Alakadimiya Arabic Language Center here in Paphos.

Ala is a young Jordanian woman living in Paphos with her family. With the increasing number of Arab families moving to the Island, she has started this Center to help the Community.

Ala is going to talk to us about how she encourages women to integrate into a new and different society while retaining their unique identity and staying true to who they are.

Do come and listen and I am sure it may help us integrate more into our communities as well.

The meeting is normally for an hour with the ability to interact with the Speaker. After which there are light refreshments and time to socialize with other members.

You can find more information about the Group at the Church's website: https://paphosanglicanchurch.org/about-us/community/womens-group/or contact Rema Lawson on 97 766564 or

womensgrouppaphos@gmail.com

ADVANCE NOTICES

Craft Group: The Craft Group is having a Spring Fair on **Saturday 6th April** and we will be having bric-a-brac, books, plants, preserves and cakes, our own craft items and raffle.

If anyone has unwanted presents please bring them to Mary for raffle prizes, all items can be brought to St. Stephen's from now on. Thanks. Mary Brown.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Friends, Neighbours, Visitors - all are welcome

19th March - Beetle Drive/Meal - I can now confirm that the Beetle Drive/Meal will take place at Yiannis Taverna, Kathikas, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets available at a cost of €15.

6th April - Spring Craft Fayre

21st April - Easter Lunch at the Kamares Club

22nd April - Sponsored Walk

17th May - Mini Golf – please note date change caused by a change to the Archdeacon's visitation date.

20th July - Annual BBQ

15th August - Latchi Boat Trip

29th September - Harvest Lunch

19th October - Beetle Drive

12th November - Nicosia Coach Trip

? November - Annual Dinner Dance

Ticket Sellers:

Ayia Kyriaki: Morning: Carolyn Hart (97762371)

Evening: Duty Warden

St. Luke's: Jayne Preston (96 511321)

St. Stephen's: Caroline & Ian Geddes (Tel: 99 417976)

Thoughts on Luke 4: 1-13 (The Temptation of Christ) – The Gospel for the first Sunday in Lent.

An extract from a sermon for the first Sunday in Lent by Michael K. Marsh, a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in West Texas. The way Luke tells it one minute Jesus is the Beloved Son, the one with whom God is well pleased. He leaves his baptismal waters full of the Holy Spirit. The next minute he is in the wilderness empty and famished. He's been tempted by the devil for forty days.

"Turn these stones into bread." "Worship me and all this will be yours." "Jump and let God catch you if you really are God's son."

The promise in Jesus' baptism and the risk in the wilderness are not two separate stories. We might read them that way but that's not how we live them. Every promise carries risk and every risk carries promise.

The promise and risk of life come to us asking for a response. Jesus had decisions to make. And so do we. We make decisions everyday of our life; decisions and choices about what to do, who we want to be, how we want to live. We sometimes call them temptations. We feel torn and pulled between the promise and the risk. Temptations hold before us the illusion of promise without risk. But that's not the way the wilderness works, and Jesus knows that.

The wilderness is full of promise and the wilderness is full of risk, for Jesus and for us. You don't get one without the other. And it's always about more than whether we say yes or no.

Think about the decisions before you today, the ones that carry consequences, the ones over which you fret and with which you struggle. What are they? What is it you are really seeking?

My guess is that regardless of what the decision is about what we really want, what we are really after, is life; the chance for more life, the possibility of a new life, the opportunity to be reborn when all has been lost, for ourselves or

for another.

With each decision we're betting that the future will be better, not because it necessarily is, but because it might be. (Caputo, 235) And that "might," the possibility of a better future, of more life, is what gives us the strength, the faith, the hope, to risk a decision and remain open to the future, even when we don't know how it will turn out. And more often than not we don't. We don't know how it will turn out.

Have you ever looked back on your life and wished you had done things differently, made a different decision, taken a different path, chosen something else? Yeah, we all have. We've all been left wondering what life would be like now if we had gone a different direction. Where would we be now? How would our life be different? What did we miss out on?

By the same token I suspect each of us can look back at choices and decisions we made and, if we had the chance, we'd do it all again, in the same way. They were absolutely the right thing for us. We wouldn't trade what that has given for anything and we wouldn't want to imagine our life otherwise.

It would be easy to look at those two situations and label one as failure and the other as a success, one in which we made the wrong decision and one in which we made the right decision. I think that's often how we live and view life. And I think that's how we often tend to hear today's gospel (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus made the right decisions and we should too. We turn the gospel into an imperative rather than an opening to life.

I am all for making good and thoughtful decisions, but what if it's more than that? What if the desire for more life is what underlies both those situations I described? What if this isn't so much about whether we get it right or wrong but whether we remain open to the coming future?

That's what's happening with Jesus in the wilderness. It's not a question of whether he will prove himself, whether he will make the right decision, but whether he will stay open to his future. And that's true for us as well.

I think that's what Lent is about. Lent is about learning to stay open to life, to the coming future. The things we do or give up for Lent are not to gain God's approval or to improve ourselves but to help keep us open to the future, to the life that is coming.

That's the wilderness struggle, the struggle of life, the struggle to remain open. It's so easy and tempting to close ourselves to the future. We do that in so many ways; fear, anger, hurt, guilt, disappointment, selfishness. What parts of your life have you closed to the future? What would it take to reopen them? That's the lenten work before us, to continually remain open to life, to our future.

I don't know what the future will bring you or me. And neither do you. But I know this, where there is a future there is also the possibility of life and more life. I don't want to close that possibility. Do you?

John D. Caputo, <u>The Insistence of</u>
<u>God</u> (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013).

The full sermon can be found at:

https://interruptingthesilence.com/2019/03/11/life-is-promise-and-risk-a-sermon-on-luke-41-13/

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