

*From Our Pastor: Jonathan Button*

Jonathan can be contacted at [j.button@bigpond.com](mailto:j.button@bigpond.com).

I am available in the event of emergencies at any time, but other than that would appreciate not receiving calls on Wednesdays, where possible, as this is my day off.

**Church Telephone Number: 8251 4298**

This Week's Roster

18th February, 2024

Next Week's Roster

25th February, 2024

Preacher:	<b>Jonathan</b>
Leader (am):	<b>Jonathan</b>
Leader (pm):	*****
Welcome:	<b>Ray</b>
Manager:	<b>John</b>
Reader:	<b>Joy B.</b>
Musician:	<b>Brunetta</b>
Morning Tea:	<b>Chris DeB. &amp; Katherine</b>
Audio Desk (am):	<b>Ruan</b>
Audio Desk (pm):	*****
Camera :	<b>Lucinda</b>
Computer (am):	<b>Rykhardt</b>
Computer (pm):	*****
AV Editing:	<b>Jonathan</b>

Preacher:	<b>James</b>
Leader (am):	<b>Rykhardt</b>
Leader (pm):	<b>James</b>
Welcome:	<b>Rykhardt</b>
Manager:	<b>Neil</b>
Reader:	<b>Lucinda</b>
Musician:	<b>Brunetta</b>
Morning Tea:	<b>Peter &amp; Yvonne</b>
Audio Desk (am):	<b>Ruan</b>
Audio Desk (pm):	<b>Ralph</b>
Camera :	<b>Tim</b>
Computer (am):	<b>Lucinda</b>
Computer (pm):	<b>Ralph</b>
AV Editing:	<b>Rykhardt</b>

*Have you considered E-giving?*

**Envelopes with an "E" on the front, prayer requests or thanks**

**can be placed in the offering bags on a Sunday morning.**

***Please speak to Chris Holroyd if you require more information.***

**Please note: Payments can now be made by**

**Electronic Funds Transfer on a Sunday.**

# Golden Grove Gazette

Keeping in touch with the G.G.U.C. family

[www.goldengroveuniting.org.au](http://www.goldengroveuniting.org.au)

Sunday, 18th February, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Preacher:: **Jonathan**

Theme: **Journey to the Cross: the Trap**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 12: 28-34**



Mission Statement: We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focussed.

**Trans-figure This!**

What's life like for you at the moment? Is everything 'coming up roses'? Or is it in 'the pits'? It could well be somewhere in between. And even if we are on the 'rosy' side of that scale, things can unexpectedly take a 'nose-dive' any time.

In Mark chapter 8 Jesus foretells that He is headed toward certain rejection, great suffering, and death. By anyone's judgement, 'the pits'. Yet in Mark 9 Jesus ascends a mountain and is transfigured with heavenly glory. This is plainly one of the highpoints of His career.

*This is the Gospel:* Jesus descends into the extreme 'pits' of our lives - the greatest suffering and loss we can know because of our brokenness and sin- but does this for us to rescue, forgive, heal, and transfigure our lives. This makes them new, fulfilled, beautiful, all as a gift of His grace.

Peter, James, and John were truly stunned when they saw Jesus transfigured; it must have been a mind-blowing thing to see. But what stunned them more was that *they were looking at their true selves- what Jesus was making of them in Himself.*

When we look at Jesus' transfiguration, we can and need to see exactly what the disciples saw: our lives, our brokenness healed and made glorious by grace. That will lift us out of whatever 'pits' in which we may find ourselves.

*Grace and cheers, Jonathan*

## The Season of Lent

*Lent comprises the forty days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go more deeply with God. This means that it is a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.*

*Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. We may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolise our grief for the things that we have done wrong and the resultant division of imperfect people from a perfect God.*

*Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.*

*Good Friday is the day that Christians remember Jesus's death. The 'Good' reflects how Jesus's death was a sacrifice on our behalf in order that we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs or sins.*

*Easter Sunday allows us to participate in the joyful celebration of Jesus's rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus paved the way for us to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.*

*Today is the first Sunday in Lent. The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something in order to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.*

*From today we shall find Lenten boxes on our morning tea tables.*

*Over the next few weeks we should do our best to fill them with whatever small change (or even large change) we have. If we would like to take one home and contribute to it at our convenience, please feel free to do so. May the peace of God overwhelm us as we replace coffee with alms.*



## FEBRUARY MARCHES ON TOWARDS AUTUMN

- First Sunday in Lent: Sunday, 18th February
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 18th February: 10.00 am
- KYB: Monday, 19th February: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 19th February: 2.00 pm
- Church Council: Tuesday, 20th February: 7.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 22nd February: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 23rd February: 6.15 pm to 8.15 pm (Sports Day)
- Second Sunday in Lent: Sunday, 25th February
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 25th February: 10.00 am
- Café Church: Sunday, 25th February: 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- KYB: Monday, 26th February: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 29th February: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 1st March: 6.15 pm to 8.15 pm (Powerpoint Karaoke)
- Working Bee: Saturday, 2nd March: 8.00 am
- Third Sunday in Lent: Sunday, 3rd March
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 3rd March: 10.00 am
- Thanksgiving and Blessings to be included in the Above Service
- KYB: Monday, 4th March: 10.00 am to 11.30 am
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 7th March: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 8th March: 6.15 pm to 8.15 pm (Capture the Flag)
- Fourth Sunday in Lent: Sunday, 10th March
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 10th March: 10.00 am
- Holy Communion to be included in the Above Service
- Café Church: Sunday, 10th March: 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- Women's Fellowship: Thursday, 14th March: 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

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### Women's Fellowship must be in need of a Good Shake-Up

Ladies, please remember that our next time of fellowship is on the second Thursday in March (the 14th). This is because we are going to be "all shook up" at the Golden Grove Recreation Centre from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm on that day. Would you please see Katherine if you require further enlightenment?

