



THE PEBBLE

The Anglican Church of Saint Peter, Caversham.

5th Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2011.



St Stephen – The first Deacon and the martyr.

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our Celebrant and Preacher, Fr. Alec Clark and everyone in Church today as we meet together to worship God the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

Entrance: Gradual: Offertory: Communion: Postcommunion: Words in this Pebble.

The Ministry of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Lady Chapel at the back of the Church during Communion.

Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Eucharist.

READINGS FOR TODAY.



1st Reading: Acts 6:1-9

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will

not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Collect:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings for Next Sunday –6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Peter 3: 15-18/John 14:15-21.

Parish Prayers



WE PRAY for the people of Christchurch and surrounding districts devastated by earthquake and loss of life and heritage. We pray especially for Bishop Victoria, the clergy and people of the Diocese of Christchurch as they proclaim God's care for the city and its people.

WE PRAY for people throughout North Africa and the Middle East at this time of revolution and conflict.

WE PRAY for St George's Theological College and its world-wide outreach, and for the schools in Haifa, Nazareth and Jerusalem.

WE PRAY for the sick and infirm, and especially for Rita Marlow, Louis Hourlier, Gary Pearson, Nell van Laar, Adrienne Garrod, Claire Johnson, John Petersen, Hannah Scott, Beryl Barclay, Lil Bedford, Cherry Gordon, Ian Gordon and Fr Bill Schroeder.

WE PRAY for the Departed, for those who have died recently, especially Margaret Idour and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially John Allen, Harriet Annie Hamer, Rena Goodwillie, Elizabeth Emily Dutton, Annie Clements, Michael Leslie Cottle and William Robert Montieth.

Parish News.



The Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Parish Lounge on Thursday at 10 am.

Observances: (25) Bede (26) Augustine of Canterbury (27) Philip Neri.

The New Edition of the Rock is now available. Make sure you get your copy!

Monday Club meets in the Hall from 10 am. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome!

Working Bee: Thank you to everyone who joined the Toroa Lions Group in a tidy-up of the churchyard yesterday. Well done!

The Lenten Mission Boxes can be handed to Rita-May Brown. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Shadowlands. The Dunedin Repertory Society is producing **Shadowlands**, the life story of C.S.Lewis (of 'Narnia'-fame). The play is directed by Natalie Ellis, and featuring an actor well known to parishioners, Bernie Crayston. **Shadowlands** is playing at 7.30pm at the Playhouse Theatre, Albany Street, until May 25. There is a matinee today at 2pm! A special deal for St Peter's: If you form a group of 5 or more and tell the box-office you are from St Peter's

the price reduces to \$15 each. Please note: *not everyone in the group has to be from St Peter's!* See the poster on the notice board in the Link.

Parish Contacts.



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