



The Pebble

February 19, 2012 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Ritual to Read to Each Other

If you don't know the kind of person I am
And I don't know the kind of person you are
A pattern that others made may prevail in the world.
And following the wrong god home we may miss our
star.

For there is many a small betrayal in the mind,
A shrug that lets the fragile sequence break
Sending with shouts the horrible errors of childhood
Storming out to play through the broken dike.

And as elephants parade holding each elephant's tale,
But if one wanders the circus won't find the park,
I call it cruel and maybe the root of all cruelty
to know what occurs but not recognize the fact.

And so I appeal to a voice, to something shadowy,
A remote important region in all who talk:
Though we could fool each other, we should consider –
lest the parade of our mutual life get lost in the dark.

For it is important that awake people be awake,
Or a breaking line may discourage them back to sleep;
The signals we give-yes or no, or maybe-
Should be clear: the darkness around us is deep.

William Stafford.

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship this morning. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Chapel of Our Lady at the back of the Church during Communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Eucharist.

The Liturgy for Today:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am Solemn Eucharist (The Taize Mass setting)

HYMNS:

349 Come let us join our cheerful songs
342 Breathe on me breath of God
350 Come ye faithful, raise the anthem
305 Soul of my Saviour
357 Father, hear the prayer we offer

Organ Prelude: *Chaconne* Jan Peterszoon Sweelink (1562-1621)

Organ Postlude: *Toccata* Léonce de Saint-Martin (1886-1954)

READINGS FOR TODAY:

Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25.

2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Mark 2:1-12.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Genesis 9:8-15

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

The dialogical rhythm of worship

There is a back and forth rhythm in our relationship with God, whether in prayer or worship. God speaks we respond, we address God who then responds. In the liturgy we set up our encounter with God as a dramatic event, a play in which the participants know the movements and the script very well, and can therefore relax into their roles and let God find them in the midst of it. It is therefore important that we do not steal each other's lines as the Divine drama plays itself out. So clergy should avoid saying everything in the liturgy, including the people's lines. This comes across as anxious and controlling. For this reason the Vicar does not say the confession or the prayer of humble access. The people must find the tempo and the rhythm to say these prayers in unison with confidence, as

they carefully listen to one another to ensure that they are speaking out to God together.

Parish Notices

Ash Wednesday Lent begins next week with the Ash Wednesday Services, which consist of the Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at St Barnabas Home at 11 am, and then at St Peter's at 7pm.

Tuesday's Throughout Lent From Tuesday February 28, there will be a Mass in the church at 7pm, followed by a Bible Study in the Vicarage at which the New Testament readings for the following Sundays will be considered. A time silent, meditative prayer will conclude the evening.

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Thursday at 10 am in the Chapel of Our Lady.

Observances: (22) CONFESSION OF PETER (23) Polycarp (24) MATTHIAS

Pray for the Sick and Infirm: Rita Marlow, Louis Hourlier, Nell van Laar, Adrienne Garrod, Claire Johnson, John Peterson, Hannah Scott, Beryl Barclay, Lil Bedford, Meg Dunbar, Cherry Gordon, Ben Chisnall and Denise Walker.

Pray for those who have Died: Cyril Tourelle, Rosemary Simons, Marjorie Booker, Andrew Brown, Agnes Griffiths and Douglas Gordon.

The Parish AGM Notice is given of the Parish Annual General Meeting to be held in the Parish Lounge following the 10.30am Solemn Eucharist, **Sunday March 11**. Nomination forms for People's Warden, Synod Representative and Vestry are available at the back of church. They are to be placed in the box next to the forms. The usual pot-luck luncheon will follow the meeting.

Reports for the AGM Parish groups are asked to provide Joy Henderson (People's Warden) with reports as soon as possible so that they can be typed and placed in the Report Book for the AGM.

To Fiji or not to Fiji The General Synod of our Church is due to meet from 6-13 July this year in Nadi in Fiji. The General Synod meets every two years, moving from place to place, with different Tikanga hosting the meeting as it moves about. The last meeting was held in Gisbourne. The problem with meeting in Fiji is that it is currently ruled by a military dictatorship. Freedom of association and of expression is increasingly limited, and the rule of law has been abolished. This applies also to religious bodies. The Methodist Church has had its annual conference banned three

times, and its ministers may not leave the country or convene local decisionmaking meetings. It is an ironic outcome given the backing the Methodist Church gave to the first coup, but as a coup culture has set in the revolution has begun to devour its children. When religious associations receive a permit to meet, military observers are generally present who have the power to shut the meeting and to have outspoken delegates arrasted. Late last year, Commodore Frank Bainimarama announced that many of the features of martial law were being lifted but this was soon followed by a new range of measures giving the military personnel wide powers to act against those who could be seen as unfriendly to the regime. The 2011 meeting of the Christchurch diocesan synod passed a resolution urging the standing committee of General Synod to relocate the next meeting elsewhere and some individuals, including your Vicar, have been quietly encouraging Archbishop David Moxon to the same course of action. The standing committee has looked into the safety and security issues of holding a meeting in Fiji, but has been reassured by Archbishop Winston Hlapua that there is nothing to fear. Tikanga Pasefika feels a considerable amount of prestige in hosting the event. But, of course, it has to be asked whether General Synod delegates would be free to express any opinion in the course of the Synod regarding recent developments in Fiji without risking imprisonment. And if the meeting is shut down this will prevent the impending Provincial vote on the Anglican Covenant, one of the most important measures to come before it in recent years.

Southern Coastal Deanery Appeal Jesse Bessant is Fr Neville Selwood's great-grandson. Jesse has been diagnosed with a rare brain stem tumour. The family needs to raise \$20,000 for special treatment in Texas. The Southern Coastal Deanery is selling Hot Cross Buns to help raise money. Details and order forms are at the back of church and in the Link. The orders have to be in by March 16 so don't delay.

Parish Contact Details:

Parish Priest:	Fr Hugh Bowron – 455- 3961
Vicar's Warden:	Tubby Hopkins – 455-3613
People's Warden:	Joy Henderson – 456-1141

Website: www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz