

St Peter's Caversham



The Pebble

February 26, 2012

Lent 1

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:

- 507 Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us
With joy and by the Spirit led (see Pebble)
Clear vault of Heaven (see Pebble)
- 64 Be thou my guardian and my guide
- 67 Forty days and forty nights

Organ Prelude: *O Gott du frommer Gott (O God, Thou faithful God)*
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Organ Postlude: *Meditation: Jesus keep me near the Cross*
Joyce Jones (1933-)

READINGS FOR TODAY:

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Genesis 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18.
Romans 8:31-34
Mark 9:2-10.

The Heaven of Animals

Here they are. The soft eyes open.
If they have lived in a wood
It is a wood.
If they have lived on plains
It is grass rolling
Under their feet forever.

Having no souls, they have come,
Anyway, beyond their knowing.
Their instincts wholly bloom
And they rise.
The soft eyes open.

To match them, the landscape flowers,
Outdoing, desperately
Outdoing what is required:
The richest wood,
The deepest field.

For some of these,
It could not be the place
It is, without blood.
These hunt, as they have done,
But with claws and teeth grown perfect,

More deadly than they can believe.
They stalk more silently,
And crouch on the limbs of trees,
And their descent
Upon the bright backs of their prey

May take years
In a sovereign floating of joy.
And those that are hunted
Know this as their life,
Their reward: to walk

Under such trees in full knowledge
Of what is in glory above them,
And to feel no fear,
But acceptance, compliance.
Fulfilling themselves without pain

At the cycle's center,
They tremble, they walk
Under the tree,
They fall, they are torn,
They rise, they walk again. *James Dickey.*

Parish Notices

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

Observances: (27) George Herbert (1) David (2) Chad.

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

Pray for those who have Died: Helen Hastie Dutton

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 Representatives and Vestry are available at the back of church. They are to be placed in the box next to the forms. The usual potluck 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.

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. There has been a good response so far. **The orders have to be in by March 16 so don't delay.**

A New Beginning As from next Thursday, the Vicar will be celebrating a monthly Eucharist at Francis Hodgkins Rest Home. This is an appropriate ministry as the Home is within the Parish boundaries and there are half a dozen parishioners resident there.

Descent into Hell: On the Monday night of Holy Week, 2 April, the 7pm Mass will be followed by a lecture in the Church given by the Vicar entitled "The Descent into Hell." This will be an introduction to the 20th century Swiss Catholic theologian Hans Urs Von Balthasar, and his unique theology of Holy Saturday.

Lenten extra, This week the Lenten 7 pm Mass, followed by a Bible Study in the Vicarage, has been rescheduled from Monday night to Wednesday night February 29 as the Vicar will be taking a funeral in Christchurch on Monday. In the weeks following we will settle in to the normal rhythm of Monday night being our Lenten extra night. A reminder that the Bible Study will consider of the New Testament readings for the following Sunday (see 'Liturgy for Today' section of the Pebble), and will conclude with a time of silent meditative prayer.

Today's sermon: is entitled "One Foot in Eden." As Jesus enters the wilderness for his time of testing he must sojourn amongst the animals that live there, some of whom would be predators, but in fact he is safe there. Some commentators have pointed to his ability to generate a kind of second Eden experience in microcosm in that brief period of time, in that small part of the creation, in which the urge to kill and eat appears to have been briefly suspended, at least as far as those creatures who might have wanted to dine on him. Theology in recent times has become interested in the possibility of the final fulfilment of the non-human creation. In this perspective the sentient beings we share life on this planet are no longer to be seen as just a scenic backdrop to the drama of human salvation – God wants to bring the whole of the creation back to himself. But there are one or two challenges that go with this point of view.

Power, Violence and War: Following Jesus Today Richard Burrige, who is Professor of New Testament and Dean of King's College, London, will give an open lecture on this topic on Tuesday at 5.15 pm in the Archway 3 Lecture Theatre.

Parish Contact Details:

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| 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