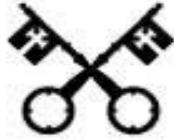


St Peter's Caversham



The Pebble

March 11, 2012

Lent 3

Lent

Welcome deare feast of Lent: who loves not thee,
He loves not Temperance, or Authoritie,
But is composed of passion.
The Scriptures bid us *fast*; the Church sayes, *now*:
Give to thy Mother, what thou wouldst allow
To every Corporation.

It's true, we cannot reach Christs fortieth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Saviours puritie;
Yet are we bid, *Be holy even as he*.
In both lets do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, then one
That travelleth by-ways:
Perhaps my God, though he be farre before,
May turn, and take me by the hand, and more
May strengthen my decayes.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sinne and taking such repast,
As may our faults control:
That every man may revel at his doore,
Not in his parlour; banquetting the poore,
And among those his soul.

George Herbert

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:

334 All people that on earth do dwell

374 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

483 The Church of God a Kingdom is

410 My God how wonderful thou art

387 Jesus, good above all other

READINGS FOR TODAY:

Exodus 20:1-3,7-3,7-8,12-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-22

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

2 Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-23.

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

PARISH NOTICES.

Today's sermon Angered by the hucksterism that has desecrated the Temple Jesus expels the religious profiteers he finds there, and then replies to his critics with play on words in which he makes the bold claim that he has now taken the place of the Temple. New Testament scholars find the metaphor of Jesus as the second Temple equivalent a rich theme to explore. For us the challenge is to inhabit the crucified and risen Christ in such a way as to find new depths of belonging to him, and to our brothers and sisters who also belong to this collective identity, which is him in the world now. Paul would develop this theme by describing the Church as the Temple of the Spirit and the Body of Christ. God has invested the Christian community with his reputation and character so that he can be located there by those who seek him in a way he can't be found anywhere else in the world. This is a privilege, and quite a mandate for the Christian community to live up to. It is a risky business also, because if a Church radically fails to be what God intends then he will abandon it, just as he did the Temple. But for those of us who remain faithful there is a wonderful prospect to

look forward to – in the life of the world to come we will become Christ, we will become a part of the collective identity and entity that is him, while at the same time becoming more ourselves than we have ever been. Today's sermon seeks to unpack these themes.

Monday Nights in Lent The Eucharist will be celebrated in the Church on Monday night at 7 pm, followed by a Bible Study in the Vicarage which will consider the New Testament readings for the following Sunday. The evening will conclude with a time of silent meditative prayer.

Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel, Thursday, 10am.

The Descent into Hell Hans Urs Von Balthasar was one of the most original theologians of the 20th century. He argued that God reveals himself principally through the three transcendentals of the beautiful, the good, and the true. He believed that the most beautiful thing in the world was the life (and death) of Jesus of Nazareth, not in a purely aesthetic sense, but in the sense that the pattern of this life enraptures us, draws us out of ourselves, and into transformative union with God. He saw what took place on the cross as decisively and dramatically changing the nature of human reality, and sought to tease out its full implications in his theology of Holy Saturday. This he thought was a neglected part of the Good Friday/Easter story. But his take on what took place in the descent of Jesus into Hell is controversial, and rather different to those Eastern Orthodox icons of Jesus smashing open the doors of Hell to set free the righteous dead of the Old Testament. To hear more about this come to a lecture on Monday 2 April at 7.30 pm at which Fr Hugh will give an introduction to the life and thought of this intriguing Swiss Catholic theologian, and will open up the controversy that swirls around his theology of Holy Saturday. Had he redefined what intimacy is between the Triune persons, or had he ruptured the unity of the Trinity? A Eucharist will precede the lecture at 7 pm. Both are in the Church.

A Lent Book Sometimes a brief, accessible book on theology or spirituality can be a great help to deepening our walk with Christ in Lent. As the last Vicar of this parish was fond of saying, "God so loved the world that he sent the paperback." If you are having difficulty in finding something suitable to read please mention this to the present Vicar who may be able to lend you something appropriate and useful. Blessed are they who are reliable at returning books.

Friendship Group The Friendship group meets in the Parish Lounge on Tuesday March 13 at 2 pm. All welcome.

Brass Cleaning There will be brass cleaning on Saturday 7 April, Easter Eve at 10.30 am in the lounge. Your help would be much appreciated.

Observances: (12) Gregory the Great (17) Patrick

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: Thomas Robbins, Claude Morris, Philip Hitchcox, Cecil Steele, Frederick Allen, Arthur Goodwillie, Ellen Brown, William Hodgson, James Clements, Ruth Mumford.

Confession Lent is a good time to make your confession, particularly as we draw near to Holy Week. Often known now as "reconciliation of a penitent," this sacrament is a great comfort to the convinced Christian, and in many ways is one of the best kept secrets of Anglo-Catholicism. To learn more about it take a look at page 750 of the 1989 New Zealand Prayer book. Please contact the Vicar to make a time if you would like to make your confession.

Preparing Palm Crosses The Palm Cross assemblers and creators will gather in the hall on Saturday 31 March at 10.30 am. Southern **Coastal Deanery Appeal for Jesse Bessant** Details and order forms are at the back of church and in the Link. There has been a very good response so far. The orders and payments have to be in by March 16 so don't delay. Place your payment in an envelope marked Hot Cross Bun Appeal and place it in the offering box at the back of church.

The Rock: Material for the next edition is due **TODAY.**

St Peter's Fellowship On Tuesday March 27, at 7.30 pm in the Parish Lounge, a Dutch Auction will be held with proceeds going to the Men's Night Shelter and Women's Refuge. Please bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$5. Everyone welcome!

The Parish Annual General Meeting takes place in the Parish Lounge following the 10.30am Solemn Eucharist, TODAY. 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 before the beginning of the meeting. The usual potluck luncheon will follow the meeting.

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