

St Peter's Caversham



The Pebble

March 18, 2012

Lent 4

Emerging

Not as in the old days I pray,
God. My life is not what it was.
Yours, too, accepts the presence of
The machine? Once I would have asked
healing. I go now to be doctored,
To drink sinlessly of the blood
of my brother, to lend my flesh
as manuscript of the great poem
of the scalpel. I would have knelt
long, wrestling with you, wearing
you down. Hear my prayer, Lord, hear
my prayer. As though you were deaf, myriads
of mortals have kept up their shrill
cry, explaining your silence by
their unfitness.

It begins to appear
this is not what prayer is about.
It is the annihilation of difference,
the consciousness of myself in you,
of you in me; the emerging
from the adolescence of nature
into the adult geometry
of the mind. I begin to recognise
you anew, God of form and number.
There are questions we are the solution
to, others whose echoes we must expand
to contain. Circular as our way
is, it leads not back to that snake-haunted
garden, but onward to the tall city
of glass that is the laboratory of the spirit.

R.S. Thomas

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:

368 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

77 The God of love my shepherd is

369 Happy are they, they that love God

306 Strengthen for service, Lord.

383 Jesu, lover of my soul (omit verse 3)

Organ Prelude: *Prière* Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Organ Postlude: *Carillion* Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

READINGS FOR TODAY:

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

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33

PARISH NOTICES.

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.

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel on Thursday at 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.

Services in Holy Week

Monday

7 pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday

11 am Holy Eucharist(at St Barnabas)

Wednesday

7 pm Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

7 pm Commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper,
Washing of Feet.

Good Friday

10 am The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
(at St Barnabas)

12 noon The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
(at St Peter's)

Holy Saturday

6 pm Eucharist (at St Barnabas) 8 pm Easter Vigil, Service of
Light, Sung Eucharist (at St Peter's)

Easter Day

8 am Holy Eucharist
10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist.

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

Observances: (19) JOSEPH (20) Cuthbert (21) Benedict (25) ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD.

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: Ben Holden, Frederick Buxton, Doreen Price and Norma Moorhead.

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 Palm Cross assemblers and creators will gather in the hall on Saturday 31 March at 10.30 am. All welcome.

Southern Coastal Deanery Appeal for Jesse Bessant There has been a very good response and payments have to be in **TODAY**. Place your payment in an envelope marked *Hot Cross Bun Appeal* and place it in the offering box at the back of church.

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!

Blue Mission Boxes If anyone has Blue Mission Boxes and would like the amount collected included in the 2011-12 tax year, please hand your boxes to the Treasurer by March 25.

Mothering Sunday. The traditional posies will be blessed and distributed at services today and Simnel Cake will be served at morning tea after the 10.30am Solemn Eucharist.

The Rock. The latest edition of the Rock has just been published and awaits your collection at the back of church and in the Link.

Parish Forum A parish forum will follow the 10.30 am Service **next Sunday**. It will be a round up of diocesan and parish news.

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