

**St Peter's Caversham
The Pebble**

April 22, 2012

Easter 3

Seven Stanzas at Easter

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as his body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
 reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
 eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as his flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then
 regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
 faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not paper-mache,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
 grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
 opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
 embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

John Updike

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship this morning. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Lady Chapel 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 Sung Eucharist and Procession (The Taize Mass setting)

HYMNS:

437 Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore him
345 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice
432 O what their joy and their glory must be
294 Just as I am
467 Through all the changing scenes of life

READINGS FOR TODAY:

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19.

1 John 2:1-5

Luke 24: 35-48

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Acts 4:8-12

1 John 3:1-2

John 10:11-18

Parish News

Today's sermon Entitled "A shaft of sunlight from heaven," it considers the reality that the resurrection is neither a charming story about life lived to the full in a world in which there is no life after this one, nor a consoling guarantee of individual eternal life for oneself and one's close circle. Instead it is the disturbing news of Jesus coming closer to us than might be comfortable, as he translates himself into the medium of a new community called the church, whose God given agenda is to overcome all human divisions into a unity which honours differences, and which reunites a lost and fallen world to his loving heavenly Father. Far from being a certain fact in a world of facts it is a shaft of sunlight from the realm of God's surprising purposes.

Vicarage House blessing The house blessing of the newly refitted Vicarage will be on Tuesday evening beginning at 5.30 pm, all parishioners welcome. The Eucharist will be celebrated

at the conclusion of the rite. A party will follow – contributions of finger food or drink would be welcome.

Anzac day Requiem A Requiem Eucharist will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel on Wednesday at 10 am to remember the war dead.

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

Parish Contact List If you would like to be on the parish contact list which provides essential contact information for regulars on our rosters who need to be in touch with each other about parish operational matters please collect a contact form from Rosemary Brown or the Vicar. We need you to fill this out to comply with the requirements of the privacy act.

Thank God it's Thursday At the last Archdeaconry meeting the Vicar observed that the usual meeting pattern of sitting around in a circle telling our stories and sharing our pain doesn't seem to make for happy or productive gatherings. He suggested an early evening meet beginning with Evening Prayer in the Church, followed by drinks and nibbles in the Vicarage. For his sins St Peters was suggested as the first of these alternative format gatherings, to be known henceforth by the above title, and the first of these will be on Thursday evening.

The Rock The April edition of the Rock is available for collection at the back of the Church.

Friendship group The St Peter's Friendship group will be running a raffle over the next two Sundays after Church to assist with fundraising towards the repainting of the hall interior.

Harvest Festival Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 6 May as the gospel reading from John focuses on the appropriate theme of Christ the true vine. This gives us time to think about suitable church decoration and harvest offerings.

Pentecost Vigil Service On Saturday evening 26 May, the eve of Pentecost Sunday, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist at 5.30 pm according to the rite of St Basil, incorporating a Vigil of readings similar to the Easter Vigil. This will be followed by a potluck meal in the hall. Pentecost is one of the most important feasts in the Church's year – the Eastern Orthodox would argue that it is on a par with Easter, a conviction the Vicar shares – and this Vigil Service provides an opportunity for deep Scriptural reflection and further teaching on the significance of this high point in the liturgical year.

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: Patricia Crosby

Giving envelopes Please make sure that the envelopes you are putting in the plate are this years ones. Sometimes parishioners are inadvertently using previous years, which causes difficulties for the stewardship recorder. A way of avoiding this confusion altogether is to go over to automatic bank payments, the best way of giving, since it ensures we don't forget, or mix our envelopes up, and assists the parish with a steady cash flow.

Patronal Festival The Patronal Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 1 July. The guest preacher will be the Revd Dr James Harding, Lecturer in Old Testament at Otago, and Curate of All Saints Dunedin. In order to make more of the Parish's big occasion we will have Choral Evensong on the Saturday evening, followed by a meal in the hall.

Hall heaters time switch Concerned at the number of times the heaters have been left on by hall users the Vestry has resolved to fit a time switch that needs to be pressed each hour to keep the heat on. This device should pay for itself quite quickly.

Vestry news Last Wednesday night's Vestry meeting agreed to accept Danielle Harrison's offer to provide the parishes financial services pro bono. This new system will replace the diocesan provision of financial services which has become increasingly fragile and unsatisfactory, and which is highly likely to attract a service fee in the future. The changeover date will be 1 June 2012. More about this at a future parish forum.

New Signs Miller Studios will install the new signs on Hillside Road on Monday of the coming week. The Sunday morning Service times will be listed on a larger sign hanging from the gibbet frame, while the green sign near the Church door will have a lockable Perspex frame installed on it enabling us to insert large print information about forthcoming parish events.

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