



The Pebble

May 20, 2012

Ascension

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*Salute the last and everlasting day,
Joy at the uprising of this Sun, and Son,
Ye whose just tears, or tribulation
Have purely washed, or burnt your drossy clay:
Behold the Highest, parting thence away,
Lightens the dark clouds, which he treads upon,
Nor doth he by ascending, show alone,
But first he, and he first enters the way.
O strong Ram, which hast battered heaven for me,
Mild Lamb, which with thy blood, hast marked the
path;
Bright Torch, which shinest, that I the way may
see,
Oh, with thy own blood quench thy own just
wrath,
And if thy holy Spirit, my muse did raise,
Deign at my hands this crown of prayer and praise.*

John Donne

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 (The Taize Mass setting)

HYMNS:

130 Hail the day that sees him rise
443 Rejoice! The Lord is King
483 The Church of God a Kingdom is
129 O Christ our hope
476 Ye servants of God your master proclaim

Organ Prelude: *Llanfair* Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Organ Postlude: *Carillion* Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

READINGS FOR TODAY:

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Mark 16:15-20

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Acts 2:1-21

1 Cor. 12:3-7,12-13.

John 20: 19-23.

Parish News

Today is Ascension Day, a signal that the Easter season will soon draw to a close, and a feast of great significance for our embodied status in the life of the world to come. Accordingly we will begin the 10.30 am Service with a procession around the interior of the Church.

Today's sermon is entitled "I Sing the Body Ascended," a variation on Walt Whitman's famous poem, "I Sing the Body Electric," a paean of praise to the physicality of men and women's bodies. Mark, Luke and Matthew each give a different version of the Ascension, and contemporary believers sometimes get hung up on Luke's description of it as an abrupt vertical ascent into the heavens. But that is

to miss the point – that Jesus took his human nature with him in his return to his Triune life with the Father and the Holy Spirit. How has this changed things for God and for us?

Holy Water Vat Thanks to the generosity of Lisa-Marie Richan, a parishioner of St Peter's, Willis St, Wellington, the parish has received from Vanpoules of England a holy water vat and a sprinkler, referred to as an aspergillum by liturgical specialists. This is used to sprinkle and bless the palms on Palm Sunday, the candles on Candlemas, and the people at the Easter Vigil, to name but a few of the liturgical highlights at which it can be deployed. The vat and the aspergillum will be blessed at the Offertory at the 10.30 am Service this morning.

Movie season extended An extra film has been added to our line up of Monday night films, this one covering the Reformation, without which it is difficult to understand the evolution of the Anglican Church in its present form. The remaining dates and titles now are 21 May Richard Taylor's "Churches: How To read them," "the Medieval period," and 28 May "The Reformation," 4 June "The Oxford movement and modern period" in the same series. These will be preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in the Church at 7 pm.

Pentecost Vigil Service On Saturday evening, 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. Please let the Vicar know if you would be available to read a lesson at this Service.

The Origins of the Eucharist On Saturday evening 9 June, the eve of the feast of Corpus Christi, we will gather in the hall at 5.30 pm to recreate the Agape Banquet, or Love Feast, which is the way the first generation of the Church celebrated the Lord's Supper. The sacred meal, which is the centrepiece of our Sunday worship, was first celebrated in the context of a community meal when the Church met together on Sunday. This is the pattern we see in 1 Corinthians 11, and to some extent in the accounts of the Last Supper in the synoptic gospels. In the following years we will trace the evolution of the Eucharist through its successive historical stages as we meet on Corpus Christ eve in this same way of teaching, worship and social gathering. Please sign the notice in the porch to indicate if you will be attending so we can cater for you. A simple meal of fish and bread will be served. Please bring with you a gold coin donation, a salad and or something to drink.

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

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, Heather Robertson, Frances Jenson Denise Walker and Margaret Fraser.

Pray for those who have Died: Rena Goodwillie, Elizabeth Dutton, Annie Clements and Michael Cottle.

The Rock The May edition of the Rock is available at the back of the Church.

Fellowship group The Fellowship group meets at 6.30 pm on Tuesday for a potluck tea - Fr Hugh will be our speaker - Group 2 to set up with assistance from all members - Contact Gay Webb 476 1613 or Gwen Hudson 455 7100.

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