



St Peter's Caversham

## The Pebble

8 July, 2012

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year B

### **In the Twentieth Century**

Christ, you walked on the sea,  
But cannot walk in a poem,  
Not in our century.

There's something deeply wrong  
Either with us or with you  
Our bright loud world is strong

And better in some ways  
Than the old haunting kingdoms:  
I don't reject our kingdoms:  
I don't reject our days.

But in you I taste bread,  
Freshness, the honey of being,  
And rising from the dead:

Like yolk in a warm shell –  
Simplicities of power,  
And water from a well.

We live like diagrams  
Moving on a screen.  
Somewhere a door slams

Shut and emptiness spreads.  
Our loves are processes  
Upon foam rubber beds

Our speech is chemical waste  
The words have a plastic feel,  
An antibiotic taste.

And yet we dream of song  
Like parables of joy.  
There's something deeply wrong.

Like shades we must drink blood  
To find the living voice  
That flesh once understood.

*James Mcauley*

## 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 and a pot luck lunch 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:

238	New every morning is the love
388	Jesus shall reign, where'er the sun
495	God is working his purpose out
294	Just as I am
456	Teach me, my God and King

**Organ Prelude:** *Prelude* from *Suite Medievale* Jean  
Langlais (1907-1991)

**Organ Postlude:** *Andantino* Harold Darke (1888-1976)

### READINGS FOR TODAY:

Ezekiel 2: 2-5

2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

Mark 6: 1-6a

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Amos 7: 12-15

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Mark 6: 7-13

## Parish News

**Today's sermon** Jesus returns to his hometown to find  
scepticism and little acceptance of his claims among those  
he grew up with. The unbelief of his contemporaries seems  
to have a reducing power on his ability to work miracles of  
healing. The prophet Ezekiel is sent to be a prophet to the  
house of Israel with the prior warning that they will not  
listen to the message he has been commissioned to  
communicate. Rejection is something that both these

representatives of God's purpose must learn to live with. Learning to deal with rejection in a dignified and mature manner is one of the hardest lessons of adult living. Today's readings situate this bracing and astringent requirement within an apparent bound to fail mission offer of salvation to people who don't want to listen. The parallels with our own situation of trying to be attractively Christian in a religiously indifferent culture are instructive. At first our culture had enough Christian remnants in it to allow Christians to blend in quietly, but now it has set out on a repaganising agenda that will increasingly stick in our craw. So now we face the double challenge of offering the good news of the gospel, while at the same time speaking with eloquent clarity about aspects of our emerging culture that do not make for human flourishing. We can be sure that we too will be told to pull our heads in, but as Ezekiel and Jesus found there was a nucleus amongst their audience who were prepared to listen, and to be the basis of a reformed community who were open to doing things God's way.

**General Synod** is under way in Fiji. Two surprise motions from the diocese of Waiapu will request that General Synod affirm that the Bishop of each diocese has autonomy in discerning who should be called to ordination, and that a liturgy for blessing same-gender relationships be adopted for use by those dioceses which wish so to do. This is an attempt to remove any constraining influence such as the moratorium requested by the wider Communion on the ordination of persons in same-gender relationships, and to redefine Anglican ecclesiology away from the notion that the local church must relate to the universal church within a web of interdependent relationships of mutual accountability. It also makes redundant the Commission of eminent persons recently set up by our Church to look into the whole issue of partnered gay relationships. The potential political blow back from the passing of these motions will be considerable, not least in the diocese of Waiapu where Holy Trinity Tauranga is in effect the Anglican charismatic flagship of the New Zealand Anglican Church.

**Visit of Dr Edric Baker** We are hosting one of New Zealand's outstanding missionaries on Monday evening. There will be a Eucharist, a light meal, and a talk by Edric, beginning at 4.30 pm. Dr Baker has pioneered and led a primary health care clinic in Bangladesh for many years that is the main, if not the only, health care provider for 100,000 people living in the clinic's locality.

**Automatic payments** If you are a member of our envelope planned giving scheme you might like to consider going over to automatic payments from your bank account to the parish's account. This means that you don't have to remember to get your envelope ready each Sunday, you don't miss your contributions when away on holiday, and it helps the parish's finances by ensuring a steady cash flow so we can meet our regular expenses. Contact Averil Hopkins at 455 3613 to find out how to make this transition.

**Wardens meeting** The Vicar and Wardens will meet on Thursday evening. Please mention any matters you want raised at that meeting to Tubby or to Joy.

**The Rock** Material for the July edition of the Rock is due next Sunday 15 July.

**Pray for the Sick and Infirm:** Rita Marlow, Claire Johnson, John Peterson, Hannah Scott, Lil Bedford, Cherry Gordon, Ben Chisnall, Heather Robertson, Frances Jenson Denise Walker and Margaret Fraser.

**The Holy Eucharist** will be celebrated in the Parish Lounge at 10am on Thursday. This will be the venue for our Thursday Services throughout the winter.

### **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](http://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz)