



St Peter's Caversham

## The Pebble

29 July, 2012

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

### To Christ Our Lord

My only friend,  
whose face I could not recognise in a crowd,  
whose voice would not make me turn,  
forgive me for thinking such things important,  
for trusting in only what I can touch.

How often I tell myself  
you are not real, and how often I see you  
more real than the houses, trees and people that pass  
and leave me nothing.

When I am left alone in the cool of the evening  
you comfort me  
when I think of all the dead beneath  
you open your hand  
and show them as stars beginning to rise.

How can I speak of you  
you without whom there would be no world  
you who saw  
the first beam of sunlight clinging to the world.

Why must silence be so much a part of us  
with you hiding behind a mountain,  
resting on the other side of the desert,  
watching me  
as I come towards you,

as I slowly learn about your ways,  
about the world that is always between us,  
and why I cannot remain the way I am.

*Kevin Hart*

### 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)

### HYMNS:

368 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer  
406 Lord teach us how to pray aright  
357 Father hear the prayer we offer  
307 Sweet sacrament Divine  
306 Strengthen for service, Lord

### READINGS FOR TODAY:

2 Kings 4: 42-44

Ephesians 4: 1-6

John 6: 1-15

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

2 Peter 1: 16-19

Mark 9: 2-10

### Parish News

**Today's sermon** is entitled, "What's in it for me religion." God takes seriously the requests we bring to him in prayer, and the teaching of Jesus on prayer assumes that asking and interceding will be at the heart of that endeavour. But prayer is primarily a relationship building activity, and if "gimme, gimme, gimme" is all we know to say to God then serious distortions will creep in to the relationship. The 5,000 who had been miraculously been fed by Jesus in the wilderness promptly seek to kidnap him, and make him their wonder-working ruler, who can keep giving them Divine handouts forever, but Jesus slips away from them, disappointed and exasperated by their

selfish religion that is based on the need for continual signs. They and we need to get our heads around the fact that God is not there for us, we are there for God. We are to love God for himself, and not just for what he gives.

**Praying for the Diocese** The Bishop has asked that each parish set time aside to pray in intercession for the Diocese, asking that God's will be known to us in what we should do in the years ahead to meet our present challenging situation. Accordingly on Saturday 1 September a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated at 10 am, and the Church will be open for prayer throughout the day for parishioners to come and do just that, concluding at 4 pm with Evening Prayer. A roster is on the foyer noticeboard for us to enter in our prayer time.

**General Synod reflections** By and large the General Synod kicked the ball into touch on most of the contentious issues, deferring the difficult debates until its next meeting in 2014, a very Anglican way of coping with potential trouble. However there was one motion, originating from the Revd Glynn Cardy, the shock jock Vicar of Auckland parish St Matthews in the city, which may well be served up at our Diocesan Synod in a reprised version. It begins unremarkably with a request that Episcopal Units hold conversations in our Church and with the wider community about the nature of marriage, but then presses on to ask that they explore how the Church might theologically and liturgically respond to gay and lesbian Anglican couples who request this rite. Some may consider that this clause prejudices the outcome of such an exploration. In any event the motion has considerable potential to distract and divide the Diocese just at the time when it will need all the unity, cohesion and energy it can muster to deal with the reshaping of its collective life so that we can live, thrive and survive into the future.

**St Kilda pot luck dinner** The gathering together of St Peters parishioners in the St Kilda area for a pot luck meal will be on Tuesday evening at Tubby and Averil Hopkins's home 10 Hardy St.

**The Rock** Copies of the July edition of the Rock are available at the back of the Church. Dereck Gray has advised that because of out of town commitments he is unable to continue as Editor of the Rock. The parish owes him a considerable debt of gratitude for turning the Rock into such an attractive magazine. David Scoular has kindly agreed to take over this role. The new emphasis will be on short articles and opinion pieces from parishioners about things of particular interest to them. Already Fr Geoff has agreed to contribute a Fr Geoff's culinary corner column. Please let the Vicar or David Scoular know if there is something you would like to write about.

**Bequesting** Our last opportunity to do good in the world is often through the wise and generous arrangements we make in our wills. What we have in a material or monetary sense came from God in the first place, and we can't take it with us on our return to him. We can however resource our parish church by remembering it in our will. Indeed, our present robust capacity to deal with challenges that will likely drive other parishes to the wall is pretty much dependent on the generosity of past benefactors, who have given us the wherewithal to look present circumstances in the eye with confidence. If we have the foresight and the thoughtfulness to go and do likewise then things will go well for St Peter's in the decades ahead.

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

### **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)