



St Peter's Caversham

The Pebble

5 August, 2012

The Transfiguration

The Transfiguration, and its aftermath

Jesus transformed, Jesus fresh from the glory of the timeless Kingdom, stands still to watch a single, small incident of pain, mental and physical. The transfiguring clarity of the mountaintop is here as well, picking out each detail with a new light. At the centre, Jesus stands still, in both landscapes; with Moses and Elijah, and with the epileptic youth. Where he stands is, not a middle ground, but a space where world's overlap. In his life and person he defines what it is for glory and misery to come together and interpret one another. The Kingdom conquers, but not by abolishing the memory of human failure and distress, only by taking it into its life. The worlds of future and present, hope and hopelessness meet in a perspective wider than the world itself. Jesus is a new world – a new creation – where earth and heaven, even hell and heaven meet...Christ's peace, then, is given us as we are drawn into his world, as we enter his space.

*Rowan Williams
The Truce of God
Pages 75, 77*

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:

234	Christ whose glory fills the skies
178	Tis good Lord to be here
433	O worship the King
389	Jesus, these eyes have never seen
391	King of glory, King of peace.

READINGS FOR TODAY:

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

2 Peter 1: 16-19

Mark 9: 2-10

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

1 Kings 19: 4-8

Ephesians 4: 30 – 5: 2

John 6: 41-51

Parish News

Today's sermon The Transfiguration is an embarrassment to those who seek to demythologise the New Testament, and to reduce its supernatural content so as to make its contents acceptable to a sceptical, secular readership. But in fact this is one of the primary disclosure points of the identity of Jesus, the world of glory he came from, to which he invites us.

Praying for the Diocese The Bishop has asked that each parish set time aside over the weekend of 31 August to 2 September 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, divided into half hour slots, is on the foyer noticeboard for us to enter in our prayer time. A note book has been provided in which parishioners can write in suggestions that have arisen from their prayer time as to helpful new courses of action the diocese could take in future years to reform and renew its life.

Clash of religions Some diocesan synod delegates have been dismayed to learn that for the second year running the dates chosen for synod clash with a major rugby game, in this case South Africa playing at the stadium. To add insult to injury the usual synod venue of Holy Cross Mosgiel is unavailable because rugby fans got in ahead of the diocesan manager and booked it out as an accommodation venue. So synod is heading off to St Hilda's, and the diocesan manager has invited synod delegates to "get your head around it."

Financial handover Danielle Harrison has taken over the administration of the parish's financial affairs as of Wednesday 1 August. Her contact details are: 58 Grove Street, St Kilda, ph 455 0759, Finance@stpeterscaversham.org.nz The delay in bringing this handover about is because of the time it has taken the IRD to confirm our GST number. Grateful thanks are due to Rita-May Brown for continuing to administer our financial affairs through this transition period, and even more so for being our treasurer link person with the diocesan financial services system over recent years. Parishioners may recall that the increasing fragility of the diocesan financial provider system obliged the parish to consider other alternatives, and so it came to pass the Danielle agreed to do all that for us on a pro bono basis.

Vicar on leave The Vicar will be away on holiday from Tuesday 7 August to Wednesday 15 August. Fr Wiremu will take the St Barnabas Services, and Fr Geoff the Thursday Mass. The celebrant and preacher next Sunday will be Fr Roger Barker.

Size of Synod The Vicar has a motion on the Synod order paper requesting that the Bishop and the Diocesan Council bring proposals to next year's synod to reduce the size of synod in an equitable manner. Although one of the smallest dioceses, Dunedin has as many synod reps as some of the largest, and parallels the numbers of General Synod. This hampers good decision-making, and generates costs the diocese cannot afford. It is also unjust as parishes with small Sunday attendances and negligible financial contributions often have more reps than those with good attendances and major shares of the diocesan budget.

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.

Significant dates Rock material is due by 12 August. It can be mailed to David Scoular at 37 Sunbury St, or e mailed to TheRockEditor@stpeterscaversham.org.nz. The Fellowship Group meets on Tuesday 14 August at 2 pm in the lounge. The Fellowship Group will have a pot luck tea on Tuesday 21 August at 6.30 pm, speaker to be confirmed.

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