



St. Peter's Caversham

The Pebble

30 December 2012

Holy Family

What Christmas Means

He lay in the crib, that you might stand at the altar;
He came to earth, that you might come to the stars.

St Ambrose

When we say, "It is Christmas" we mean that God has spoken into the world his last, his deepest, his most beautiful word, a word that can no longer be revoked because it is God's definitive deed, because it is God himself in the world. And this word means: I love you, you, the world, and all humanity.

Karl Rahner

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today. 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:

39 Unto us a boy is born

40 What child us this

33 Of the Father's heart begotten

41 Where is this stupendous stranger? (t.379)

25 God rest you merry gentlemen

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Sirach 3:2-6,12-14](#)

[Colossians 3:12-21](#)

[Luke 2:41-52](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

[Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6](#)

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Parish News

Today's sermon is entitled, "The clues to his destiny." Mary and Joseph were subjected to every parent's nightmare when Jesus went missing in order to engage in a theological sparring session with the doctors of the law. But did they do well to be

surprised at what their precocious child had got up to given the clues already provided by various messengers as to his real identity and mission. The follow on issue for us is whether we are able to love our children, and others for that matter, for who God wants them to become, rather than because we hope they will play out various agendas dear to our hearts.

Christian World Service There is still time to make a contribution to the Christian World Service Christmas appeal. You will find CWS aid envelopes at the back of the Church.

Watchnight Service You are invited to see in the New Year at your parish Church as we celebrate the Liturgy of St Basil, preceded by a Vigil of Readings especially suitable for greeting the New Year, beginning at 10 pm. A social gathering in the Vicarage will follow this as we await midnight.

Readers requested It would be very much appreciated if you could please write your name on the notice on the noticeboard, which lists the Vigil readings, if you are available to read a lesson at the Watchnight Service.

Social gathering The Vicar will provide drinks and nibbles for the New Years eve social gathering in the Vicarage, but any contributions of food and drink would be appreciated.

Fine waved Vestry members were relieved to hear recently that the Fire Service had decided to waive the \$1,100 fine it proposed to impose on the parish because of the three false alarms generated from the hall over the past 18 months. The Vicar had written to the Fire service pointing out that we have now replaced all the fire sensors in the hall. A follow on issue is whether we still need a monitored alarm given that the Vicarage is now tenanted.

Film season resumes From mid to late January a series of the best religious films of recent years will be shown on successive Monday nights in the Vicarage. These will include the outstanding Finnish film that came out this year, "Letters to Fr Jacob," (14 Jan) the Russian film, "The Island," (21 Jan) and, "Molokai," (28 Jan) the story of Fr Damien and his ministry on the leper island of Molokai. But moviegoers need to go to Mass first on those Monday evenings.

The Rock is available for collection at the back of the Church

Thursday Eucharist The Thursday 10 am Mass continues as usual throughout January.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Rita Marlow, Claire Johnson, John Peterson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, and Denise Walker.

Pray for those who have died especially those whose memorial occurs at this time: Christopher Holden.

Best books of 2012 Future January editions of the Pebble will list some of the books the Vicar has found helpful and interesting over the past year.

Rowan Williams The filmed recording of the Vicar's lecture on the theological world of Rowan Williams has been posted on the St Peter's web site.

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