



**St. Peter's Caversham**  
**The Pebble**

**29 December 2013**      **Feast of the Holy Family**

**The Gate of the Year**

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand  
of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer  
than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly  
into the night.

And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in  
the lone East.

*So heart be still:*

*What need our little life  
Our human life to know,  
If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife  
Of things both high and low,  
God hideth his intention*

*God knows. His will  
Is best. The stretch of years  
Which wind ahead, so dim  
To our imperfect vision,  
Are clear to God. Our fears  
Are premature; In Him,  
All time hath full provision.*

*Minnie Louise Haskins*

**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 Sung**  
**Eucharist this morning**

**The Liturgy for Today:**

**8:00 am** Holy Eucharist

(1662 Book of Common Prayer)

**10:30 am** Solemn Sung Eucharist

**HYMNS:**

25 God rest you merry gentlemen

40 What child is this

285 For the beauty of the earth

298 May the grace of Christ our Saviour

387 Jesus good above all other

**READINGS FOR TODAY:**

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

[Colossians 3: 12-21](#)

[Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23](#)

**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 Matrix of Divine Life,"  
and reflects on the vital role family had on shaping the life  
of Jesus and each one of us.

**Rock** The December edition of the Rock is available for collection at the back of the Church.

**Christian World Service** You will find the CWS Christmas Appeal envelope at the end of each pew. St Peter's has always supported this appeal generously.

**Thursday Eucharists** continue as usual at 10 am in the Lady Chapel throughout the festive season. Next Thursday we will celebrate Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church, the so called Cappadocian Fathers who did so much to define the faith of the creeds which is a cornerstone of orthodox Christian belief.

**Christmas report** Christmas Midnight Mass this year was a particular joy with a solo item provided by Arnold Bachop, and then Tom Woodman and Arnold singing a moving version of "O Holy Night." A visiting priest commented in an email that the Service "completely satisfied spiritually, aesthetically and emotionally."

### **Watchnight Service**

**We will see the New Year in on Tuesday evening with a Vigil of Readings appropriate to the turn of the year within the context of the celebration of the liturgy of St Basil, which we use with Episcopal permission on very special liturgical occasions.**

**The Service begins at 10 pm, and will be followed by a social gathering at the Vicarage as we await Midnight. Offerings of beverages and finger food snacks would be welcome. There are still reading slots available in the Vigil part of the Service. Please let the Vicar know if you can help in this way.**

**Vatican 2 on the family** The Vatican 2 "Constitution on the Church," has this to say about today's theme on the family:

And those called to matrimony

live especially close to the unity and fruitful love  
That exists between Christ and the Church.

In fact, those who receive this sacrament,  
by reason of their state and rank in life,  
have their own special gift  
among the people of God.

From their lovemaking comes forth  
new citizens of the world,  
those who will ultimately live in the light.

This family setting is its own kind of Church,  
a sort of "domestic" Church,

In this household setting,  
where relationships are the stuff of daily life,  
for better or worse,  
members ought to witness to each other  
and teach each other to listen to the Spirit  
prompting them in their hearts.

**Pray for the Sick and Infirm** especially Claire Johnson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, Juen Miyagi, Coral Paris, Shirley Buxton, and Denise Walker.

### **Parish Contacts:**

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