



St. Peter's Caversham
The Pebble

12 JULY, 2015

15 TH SUNDAY, YEAR B

ABOUT EXORCISM

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits...So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

Mark 6: 7, 13

Part of today's gospel reading

The general attitude in the Church of England seemed to regard exorcism as an exercise in white magic or a survival of medieval superstition. It was seen as the purely negative action of expelling an evil force or cleansing an evil environment. Its positive aspect as an extension of the frontiers of Christ's Kingdom and a demonstration of the power of the resurrection to overcome evil and replace it with good was overlooked.

Exorcism

The Exeter Report 1971

Edited by Dom Robert Petitpierre O.S.B.

A Warm Welcome
to all who are sharing with us in worship today. 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

HYMNS:

437 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him

342 Breathe on me breath of God

495 God is working his presence out

304 Once, only once, and once for all

245 God that madest earth and heaven

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Amos 7: 12-15](#)

[Ephesians 1: 3-14](#)

[Mark 6: 7-13](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Jeremiah 23: 1-6](#)

[Ephesians 2: 13-18](#)

[Mark 6: 30-34](#)

Parish News

Potluck Lunch As is our custom on the second Sunday of the month a potluck lunch follows the 10.30 am Service. All welcome.

St Peters to host Synod Sunday Service St Peters will host the Synod Sunday Service on Sunday 20 September at 8 am. This will be our main Service of the day in the style of the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist, with the Vicar being the preacher. The parish will then host the Synod breakfast. Please make contact with Alex Chisholm, Heather Brooks or Ronda Tatnell if you can help with the breakfast. The Sunday session of Synod will now meet in the St Peters hall.

St Peters Festival of Flowers St Peters will be hosting a Festival of

Flowers over the weekend of 17-18 October based around the theme of St Peter the fisherman. Parishioners may recall the very successful similar event which came to us for the first time last year. This event will be provided by the Dunedin Floral Art Society, of which our Faye-Noel Brown is the President.

150th Anniversary registration It is important that parishioners register for the parish 150th anniversary celebrations over the weekend of 26-27 September. You can do this by filling in a registration form which is available at the back of the Church and putting it in the box by the forms, or by emailing 150th@stpeterscaversham.org.nz. Dorice Preston will be joining us that weekend. Would anyone be able to offer her a bed for the Saturday night?

Worth a Look The Anglican Taonga web site is the New Zealand Anglican Church's official web site with current news stories about what is happening in our church around the country. The "Worth a Look" section is even more interesting with church news stories from around the world, some of them most unusual.

Bishop on the Camino Bishop Kelvin has flown to Europe to walk the Camino, the pilgrimage route to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela, the Cathedral where legend has it the bones of St James are buried. This shrine site in Galicia, Spain was popular with medieval pilgrims, and has experienced an even greater surge of interest in recent times, with even non church goers trying it, including the long walk there from either southern France or the Basque country. The Vicar has been to the shrine, but cheated by catching the train. This is the second part of Bishop Kelvin's study leave.

Wardens meeting The Vicar will meet with the Wardens tomorrow. Please mention any matters you want raised at that meeting to Kate Paterson or Tubby Hopkins.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Johnson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, Jun Miyagi, Shirley Menzies, Margaret Sterling, Anita Stevens, Mahlia Napier, and Denise Walker.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time:

Roseanne Carruthers, Joyce Gordon, Ngaere Newell, Len Burt, Margaret Fraser, Beatrice Beatty and Evelyn Ward.

Questioning unbelief From time to time Christians find themselves in unexpected intense conversations about belief/unbelief in God, with familiar difficult questions being put to them. Here are some counter questions that engage the issue at another level. To those who point to the existence of suffering and evil in the world as a reason for not believing in God one can point out that it is mighty interesting that the background assumption behind such an argument is that the world should be fair and just and kind, in other words that one's interlocutor is hard wired to think that this is the way things ought to be in the world. If the world just came to be accidentally through the blind forces of evolution with no God underlying its existence then there is no reason for the world to be just and kind and good - things just are as they are. To those who argue that science provides the answers and the solutions to the problems of human existence, thus rendering religious mythological explanations for the conundrums of life obsolete, one can point out that by and large we take what scientists tell us about the world on faith. Most of us do not have the technical knowledge to test their conclusions by rigorous empirical verification, and so we make an act of faith that what we are told is true, just as we trust a variety of people who serve and assist us in our affairs of daily living without always being able to test whether they deserve that trust. One can also point out that science often seems to change its mind about some of its most dogmatic assumptions. We can also ask why it is that human beings are often moved when they witness acts of compassion, magnanimity and forgiveness as if they have suddenly seen the way life is supposed to be, that this is the true script for human living, and they often feel slightly ashamed that they are not living that way. There is of course no reason to feel like this if there is no God given master plan for human living, if the Darwinian struggle for survival through selection of the fittest is the name of the game. Altruism is in fact a big problem for militant atheists like Richard Dawkins who assume that Darwinian evolution is the answer to everything because altruism doesn't make sense as a survival strategy. Machiavelli provides a better blueprint for social survival than Mother Teresa.

Parish Contacts.

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