



St. Peter's Caversham
The Pebble

26 JULY, 2015

17TH SUNDAY, YEAR B

ON LOVING GOD FOR HIMSELF

Karl Barth seemed to take special delight in the classical doctrines concerning God's being and attributes. Perhaps this is because these doctrines underscore the fact that God is fascinating and compelling for his own sake. God is of interest to us not because he is useful to us, but because God is supremely good and true and indeed beautiful.

Joseph Mangina

Modern theology's turn to the world too often fails to see that it all too quickly takes God as a stopgap for human beings, their happiness, and their so-called self-realization. That is the greatest profanity and shamelessness towards God! God is not there for us, but we are there for him, and we are real Christians only when we let ourselves fall, in surrender and without condition, into the incomprehensibility of God along with Jesus crucified.

Karl Rahner

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:

390 Jesus, where'er thy people meet

385 Jesu, the very thought of thee

296 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

298 May the grace of Christ our Saviour

392 Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom

READINGS FOR TODAY

[2 Kings 4: 42-44](#)

[Ephesians 4: 1-6](#)

[John 6: 1-15](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15](#)

[Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24](#)

[John 6: 24-35](#)

Parish News

Today's sermon is about loving God for his own sake. We are told in the New Testament that we can ask for anything in his name in prayer, and most prayer in the New Testament is requesting and petitionary in its nature. But if we never get beyond "what's in it for me" religion our faith remains immature and somewhat self-centred. Though God gives good gifts, the Holy Spirit's first and greatest gift is that of God himself, really the only gift worth having.

Synod Sunday breakfast Please make contact with Alex Chisholm, Heather Brooks or Ronda Tatnell if you can help with the breakfast on 20 September after the 8 am Synod Service.

Fellowship group The fellowship group will have its mid-year lunch on Tuesday at 12.30 at Fat Harrys in Mornington.

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.

Vestry news The Vestry noted the extremely brief and relatively uninformative statement the director of the Anglican Family Centre had made on the Diocesan News Update about the resolution of its industrial dispute with its PSA workers. It was resolved that the Vicar would raise the matter at Synod. There was a discussion of arrangements for advertising the organ recital on the anniversary weekend so as to attract members of the Dunedin music appreciation public. Door sale tickets will be \$10. Practical arrangements for hosting the second day of Synod in the St Peter's hall were made. It was noted that planning was under way for an Advent evening Service based around the John Donne *La Corona* sequence of poems.

Rock This month's edition of the Rock is available in the Link and at the back of the Church.

Evensong and Benediction Next Sunday at 5 pm, followed by a social hour in the lounge.

150th Anniversary registration We are receiving an encouraging number of parishioner registrations. Please remember to get your registration fee to us by 1 August in order to receive the early bird discount.

Vicar away(briefly) The Vicar will be in Wellington from mid-day Wednesday to Saturday to spend time with his new grandchild Leo.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Johnson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, Jun Miyagi, Shirley Menzies, Margaret Sterling, Joan Thompson and Denise Walker.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Beryl Heazlewood, Leah Palmer, Dorothy Lanham, and Robert Stephen.

New diocesan revenue gathering proposal This year's September Synod proposes to change the present "Fair Share" levy on parishes for the cost

of running the diocese to a new formula based on a 10% tithe on bequest income and parishioner giving. It aims to bring about greater fairness between well off and under resourced parishes, rather than garnering additional revenues for the diocese. Some initial costings have been done with odd results eventuating. Our immediate neighbour of the Southern Coastal Deanery with its three units of St Kilda, Mornington and Green Island experiences a major reduction of requested revenue of over \$5,000. Yet so too do St Matthews Dunedin, St Johns Roslyn and Queenstown, by even bigger margins. Yet these three parishes, plus Balclutha, are to some extent the financial engines that pull the diocese along behind them. Thus the overall effect is to reduce diocesan revenue by over \$19,000, a not insignificant outcome for the poorest diocese in the country. St Peter's tax levy would more than double from \$4,107 to \$9,400, a reflection of the fact that God has been good to us as a result of recent bequesting. The salad days of low diocesan funding requests in recent years were bound to come to an end, and if we go along with these proposals we take the moral high ground and can no longer be accused of being the selfish parish, a change muttered at us *sotto voce* at diocesan gatherings. But the sacrifice required of us would be for naught if the end result was that we were subsidising the financially strongest parishes in the diocese, while the diocesan administration withered. What is required here is a Robin Hood amendment so that the redistributionist agenda of these proposals is fulfilled, with the biggest parishes giving at their present levels, and the diocesan budgets less vulnerable to the persistent deficits they have been running in recent years. The Diocesan stewardship committee has said it will revisit these costings. An additional proposal is for user pays charges to come in for parishes that use diocesan accounting services. This does seem reasonable since the present free service represents a major hidden subsidy, and the parishes using these services will in the main soon receive major tax relief. We can be glad that thanks to the generosity and kindness of Danielle Harrison we receive our financial services *pro bono*.

Parish Contacts.

Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Bowron – 455- 3961

Vicar's Warden: Tubby Hopkins – 454-2399

People's Warden: Kate Paterson – 455-5384

Stewardship Recorder: Averil Hopkins - 454-2399

www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz