



St. Peter's Caversham
The Pebble

23 AUGUST, 2015

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

WHY MARRIAGE

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation, to join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God himself, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy state Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in Holy Writ to be honoured among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes from which Matrimony was ordained.

First, It was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God, and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy name.

Secondly, It was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are called of God to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living.

Thirdly, It was ordained for the mutual society, help and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy state these two persons present come now to be joined.

Book of Common Prayer 1928

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:

369 Happy are they, they that love God

320 O Perfect Love

302 O Thou who at thy Eucharist didst pray

297 Lord Jesus Christ

337 As pants the heart for cooling streams

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-17, 18](#)

[Ephesians 5: 21-32](#)

[John 6: 60-69](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8](#)

[James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27](#)

[Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#)

Parish News

Today's sermon focuses on the Ephesians reading, which at first glance appears to be a major embarrassment in terms of contemporary understandings of marriage, indeed it is hardly ever read at Weddings now. Yet as we dig beneath the surface of the text we find it offers a critique of understandings of marriage in every age and in every culture. It also focuses on the central issue of this sacrament – that it is a mirror image of the relationship between Christ and his church.

Fellowship group The Fellowship group will meet at 2 pm on Tuesday at Ronda Tatnell's house – 38b Bellona Street, St Kilda, to

watch the film "Annie" with afternoon tea to follow. Contact Raylene Ralston 455 2389.

150th Anniversary registration A list of those who have registered for the 150th anniversary celebrations can be found on the table in the Lounge. Please check it to see if you are on the list.

10.30 roster The new 10.30 am roster running from September this year to March next year has been issued, and is now being distributed.

Vestry news Approval was given to tune the hall piano and to purchase new glassware for the kitchen. Alex Chisholm's excellent organisational arrangements for the Synod breakfast were noted with warm approval. Detailed planning for the 150th anniversary celebrations continued. Gillions have given approval for the use of their mounted flat screen TV for purposes of showing the "Thanks for the Memory" film, and for showing photos for the "Colourful Vicars from St Peters past" talk.

Dr Edric Baker Parishioners may recall the visit of Dr Edric Baker, missionary doctor, to the parish three years ago, seeking support for the primary health care clinic he founded in Bangladesh. He has now been told that he has only a limited time left to live, and has handed over the management of the Kailakuri clinic to one of his paramedics. He urgently needs two people - a replacement doctor and also someone who will work the computer, manage public relations and do fund raising. If a doctor cannot be found the clinic will have to close down, thus depriving 40,000 people of medical care, together with the loss of jobs for the staff. Edric is now very frail and can only walk a few steps - he is cheerful and outgoing but has no energy. The information comes from Hilda England who is touring NZ to promote prayer and other support for Edric, hoping to set up groups to provide this practical and prayer support. She can be contacted at hilda@soundedit.co.au

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Johnson, Cherry Gordon, Jun Miyagi, Shirley Menzies, Margaret Sterling, Lester Hopkins Anita Stephens, Mahlia Napier, Edric Baker and Denise Walker.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Annie Mitchell, Ted Hawkhead, Winnie Dunlop, Robert Jacobs, Olive Hammond-Tooke and Maurice Chetwin.

A national identity in flux It is remarkable how celebrations of national identity have changed so rapidly in recent years. Anzac day used to be the preserve of the RSA and uniformed organisations, with young people only turning up to demonstrate. Now young people are to the fore at the dawn parade as part of a general enthusiasm for the day, and they also often make the pilgrimage to Anzac Cove in Turkey. This commentator is bewildered that this is so, reflecting that it would be more appropriate to celebrate a victory such as the battle of Messines in 1917, or the capture of Bapaume in 1918, both of them triumphs of New Zealand arms, rather than the ignominious defeat of the Dardanelles campaign. Perhaps the shift reflects the reality that Waitangi day has failed to gel with the general population. Although the Treaty of Waitangi has more prominence in national life than in the past its signing tends to be celebrated by those who are directly involved in its present outcomes. Protests and divisive debates about its meaning have left many confused or disinterested in its significance. The iconic photo of Norman Kirk walking hand in hand with a Maori child now seems like an image out of a more innocent past when Waitangi day was a symbol of national unity. Attempts to recast it as New Zealand day have never really caught on in the public imagination. Social and cultural attitudes are now changing so fast that making snapshot judgements about new flags and new national anthems is a perilous business in terms of coming to a national unifying symbol that will stick. We have yet to come to terms with several significant recent developments that have yet to play out. A visit to Auckland shows that the Asian century is upon us, together with significant enclaves of South Pacific culture that are evolving away from what they were in the home islands while at the same time making significant contributions to, for instance, NZ rugby. Both these significant recent arrival groups, like the white South African and Zimbabwean cohorts who came before, are often devoutly Christian, a confounding reality for those who think we are advancing to a future where God has been driven out of our national experience.

Parish Contacts.

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