



St. Peter's Caversham
The Pebble

28 February

LENT 3

To Keep a True Lent

Is this a Fast, to keep
 The Larder lean?
 And clean
From fat of veals and Sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
 Of Flesh, yet still
 To fill
The platter high with Fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
 Or ragged to go,
 Or show
A downcast look, and sour.

No: tis a Fast, to dole
 Thy sheaf of wheat
 And meat
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife,
 From old debate
 And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
 To starve thy sin,
 Not Bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick

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)

10:30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

HYMNS:

507 Hear us, O Lord

64 Be thou my guardian and my guide

461 There's a wideness in God's mercy

72 My faith looks up to thee

393 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15](#)

The response to [Psalm 103](#) is:

The Lord is kind and merciful

[1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12](#)

[Luke 13: 1-9](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Joshua 5: 9, 10-12](#)

[2 Corinthians 5: 17-21](#)

[Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32](#)

Parish News

Omit the Gloria A reminder that we omit the Gloria in Lent as it is a penitential season.

Documentary film season On Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm in the Vicarage we will be watching *Best of Enemies*, a behind the scenes account of the explosive televised debates between the liberal Gore Vidal and the conservative William F. Buckley Jr. during the 1968 Democratic and Republican national conventions. Live and unscripted, they kept viewers riveted with their rancorous

disagreements about politics, God and sex. Ratings for ABC news sky-rocketed; and a new era in public discourse was born.

Fish and Chip Friday Eucharists Our Lenten extra is a Eucharist celebrated at 5.30 pm each Friday in Lent in the parish lounge with a dialogue sermon followed by a shared fish and chip tea.

Evensong and Benediction Next Sunday at 5 pm.

Parish Garage Sale At the time of going to press the garage sale proceeds had reached a provisional figure of around \$1,200 with further increments expected to take it higher.

Return of the Rare Byrds Dunedin's Tudor music group will hold a concert in the Church this afternoon as part of Dunedin's early music festival. The staging area that has been inserted in the vicinity of the choir pews will require different arrangements for communion. The Vicar will advise about this.

Francis Hodgkins The Vicar will celebrate the Eucharist at Francis Hodgkins on Thursday at 11 am. The Francis Hodgkins house group will meet on Monday 14 March at 2 pm in the Garden lounge.

Rock The latest edition of the Rock is available at the back of the Church and in the Link.

Queen Elizabeth speaks about God's faithfulness The Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Queen Elizabeth 2, has made a strong personal statement of her faith, and has told the people that she is "very grateful" for their prayers for her; saying that she has felt God's faithfulness during 64 years on the throne. The Queen made her comments in the foreword to a new book, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, which has been published by three British charities as an evangelistic tool to mark the Queen's forthcoming 90th birthday. The book, by the Bible Society, HOPE and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity uses the Queen's own words to describe her faith in God; and is said to offer "rare insights into the Queen's personal thoughts and Christian faith."

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Johnson, Cherry Gordon, Jun Miyagi, Margaret Sterling, Anita Stephens, Mahlia and Sheree Napier, and Denise Walker.

Pray for those who have died William Fowler, June Paterson, and Frederick White.

Working Group Report on Motion 30 The working group that was brought into existence by the last General Synod to bring together proposals on the same sex blessings issue has finally reported somewhat later than its original deadline. It offers the General Synod that will meet in Napier in May two proposed liturgies, one for heterosexual couples who have been civilly married, and one for same sex couples who have been so married. The first covers the anomaly in the present situation whereby couples married in a registry office are recognised by the Church as being married but have not been encouraged to or had the opportunity for a church blessing. In the latter situation the Anglican Church would not offer gay marriage, and would require all same sex couples seeking a blessing on their union to be already civilly married. While this is less than the liberal leaning side of the Church wants it does pave the way to ordination for those who have been so blessed since their relationship would now be recognised by the Church as being "rightly ordered." The report, and the last General Synod, maintain that the Anglican Church continues to believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, and that what is being offered here is different. Much debate will now ensue as to whether the Church can continue to insist that its teaching about marriage hasn't changed when it permits such blessings since these presume a high degree of approval and sanctioning of such relationships by God and the Church. The Church's theology of blessings will also come under scrutiny since in the past it has blessed everything from battleships to houses to pets without stopping to think very much about what it was doing in the process. Two other potentially tricky issues will be whether approval of same sex blessings will come to be seen as a stepping stone to full gay marriage in the Church, and whether those dioceses, parishes and clergy opting out of performing such blessings on the ground of conscience will be permitted some sort of parallel jurisdiction to seek shelter in.

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

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