



St Peter's Caversham
www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

The Pebble

16 December 2018

Advent 3

John the Baptist

His words of mercy shall be flails
Appointed for the separation of the wheat and chaff.
But who shall fear the violence
And crisis of his threshing-floor
Except the envious and selfish heart?
Choose to be chaff, and fear the Winnower;
For then you will never abide his Baptism of Fire and Spirit.
You proud strong,
You confident in judgement and understanding,
You who have weighed and measured every sin
And have so clearly analysed the prophecies
As to be blinded on the day of their fulfilment:
Your might shall crumble and fall down before Him like a wall,
And all the poor and needy shall enter in,
Pass through your ruins, and possess your kingdom.

Thomas Merton

This poem continued from last week

Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today.
The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered at
the communion rail during communion. Everyone is
warmly invited to Morning Tea after the Solemn Sung
Eucharist

THE LITURGY FOR TODAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (1662)

10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

HYMNS

443 Rejoice, the Lord is King

We sing a threefold *Alleluia* acclamation before the gospel

483 The Church of God a kingdom is

275 Blessed Jesu, Mary's son

10 Long ago, prophets knew

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Zephaniah 3: 14-18](#)

The response to the Isaiah canticle is:

Cry out with joy and gladness:

for among you is the great and holy one of Israel

[Philippians 4: 4-7](#)

[Luke 3: 10-18](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

As per Nine Lessons and Carols

PARISH NEWS

Today This morning's preacher is Fr Brian who will celebrate at 8 am. Fr Hugh will be the celebrant at 10.30 am.

Brass cleaning There will be brass cleaning on Friday 21 December at 10.30 am in the lounge - to have the Church looking its best for Christmas - your attendance would be very much appreciated. Contact Gay Webb phone 476 1613.

Readers for Nine Lessons and Carols Please sign the notice on the Link noticeboard if you would like to read a lesson at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service next Sunday 23 at 10.30 am.

Watchnight Service New Year's Eve occurs just over three weeks from now on Monday evening 31 December. As is our custom we see in the New Year with a candlelit Vigil Service and Eucharist followed by a social gathering in the lounge. Please sign the relevant notice if you can assist by reading a lesson.

Christmas appeal This year's Christian World Service appeal is entitled *Be the Lifeline*. Give generously to help the poorest of the poor in the third world.

Christmas Services

Sunday 23 December Advent 4:

8 am Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 am Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Monday 24 December

11 am Eucharist at Frances Hodgkins

6 pm Eucharist at St Barnabas

10.30 pm A candlelit Service of Carols, Readings and first Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day Tuesday 25 December

9 am Holy Communion (1662) with Carols

January at St Peter's Evensong and Benediction with a follow on social gathering in the lounge will continue as usual on the first Sunday of the month 6 January with the Epiphany Carol Service taking place that morning at 10.30 am. In addition to the season of dance films there will be a parish BBQ preceded by an early evening Mass at a date to be announced.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Johnston, Margaret Sterling, Mahlia Napier, Cherry Gordon, Paul Hill, John Steele and Jennifer Parmenter.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time John Carruthers, William Forrest, Allan Paterson and John Jerome.

The current theological enthusiasms of St John's College Auckland students

The Revd Toby Behan who kicked off this year's Caversham lectures is a recent graduate of our national theological college St John's Auckland. During his time with us I asked him privately about the kinds of theology that his contemporaries at St John's were interested in and were pursuing with enthusiasm. He immediately replied "Liberation theology and Feminist theology." For those who don't know liberation theology was born in the favelas of Latin America as a way of pursuing Christian existence in the face of corrupt and dictatorial regimes. It puts the book of Exodus end on end with Marxist analysis. All Anglican ordinands ought to know what Feminist and Liberation theology is but a priest who makes it their primary theological resourcing point will find it thin gruel and somewhat irrelevant for parish ministry in say Ashburton, Gore or Blenheim. This is not the first time that St John's Auckland has left its graduates ill equipped for a lifetime's ministry in rural, provincial and urban New Zealand. The generation raised on nuclear free pacific theology had all exited ministry within a few years of leaving its hallowed halls. However, all is not doom and gloom in the teaching of theology at St John's as the Otago theology department is now its main provider and the Revd Chris Holmes gently but firmly insists that the students direct their attention to the greats of the Church's systematic theology tradition such as Augustine, Aquinas, Barth, Von Balthasar and Torrance. Here true and life giving wisdom can be found to fund a lifetime of faithful preaching and pastoral ministry.

Parish Contacts.

Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Bowron - 455- 3961

Assistant Priest: Fr Brian Kilkelly - 027 229 3450

Vicar's Warden: Tubby Hopkins - 454-2399

People's Warden: Di Bunker - 477 2474

Director of Music: David Hoskins - 453-4621

Stewardship Recorder: Averil Hopkins - 454-2399