



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

The Pebble

13 October 2019

28th Sunday, Year C

Here are words we may trust:

If we died with him, we shall live with him;

If we endure, we shall reign with him.

If we deny him, he will deny us.

If we are faithless, he keeps faith,

For he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2: 11-13

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 FOR TODAY

467 Through all the changing scenes of life

We sing a threefold *Alleluya* before the gospel reading

468 Through the night of doubt and sorrow

414 O for a closer walk with God

472 When all thy mercies, O my God

READINGS FOR TODAY

[2 Kings 5: 14-17](#)

The response to [Psalm 98](#) is:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power

[2 Timothy 2: 8-13](#)

[Luke 17: 11-19](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Exodus 17: 8-13](#)

[2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4:2](#)

[Luke 18: 1-8](#)

PARISH NEWS

This morning Fr Brian is the celebrant and preacher this morning. Fr Hugh is taking the morning Services at St Johns Roslyn.

Potluck lunch Our usual second Sunday of the month potluck lunch follows the 10.30 am Service. All welcome.

Olive Burt RIP Olive Burt was a member of the 8 o'clock congregation for many years. She lived in St Clair but moved to Summerset rest home when dementia became an issue in her life. Fr Hugh continued to take communion to her regularly. He was surprised to learn this past week when attempting to visit her that she had died in mid-September and that her funeral had been taken by a secular celebrant at Hopes. This illustrates the perils of one's funeral arrangements being made by children who ignore the strong church connections of their parents.

Church working bee The church grounds working bee was postponed because of the weather. We will try again next Saturday.

Change of Frances Hodgkins dates Fr Hugh will celebrate the Anglican Eucharist at Frances Hodgkin's on Thursday 31 October instead of the first Thursday. This means he will celebrate on two Thursdays there in a row as on the first Thursday in November he will return to the normal cycle of Anglican Services.

Next curry evening There will be another of our popular curry evenings on Tuesday evening 22 October. Please sign the booking notice on the Link noticeboard to let us know numbers.

Fellowship group The Fellowship Group will meet on Tuesday 22 October at 2 pm at St Barnabas to hear Gwen Hudson talk about her recent trip to Russia. Afternoon tea will be served for \$8. Please let Raylene 455 2389 or Gay Webb know if you plan attending.

Please pray for Asher Katene and Kasanita Tavake to be married at St Peter's in January.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Christie, Cherry Gordon, Paul Hill, John Steele, Jennifer Parmenter, Rosemary Stott, Gillian Gordon, Christine Flegg, Mavis Lighton and Anne Bowker.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Jean Errington, Grace Hughes, Helen Larkins, Robert Welsh, Vene Peterson, Ruth Finnegan, Murray Welsh and Shirley Buxton.

Fr Hugh's Opinion Page

Reflections on religious affiliation data from the recent census It is not often that I agree with Bishop Brian Tamaki about anything but his chagrin about Destiny Church membership being listed at 1,722 rather than his own claim to have 6,000 members is I think fully justified. As he pointed out the census form didn't ask if people belonged to Destiny Church and many of his people would have put down Pentecostal or Evangelical. The fact that Catholics are now the biggest denomination at 10.1% is no surprise as their numbers are buoyed up by recent immigration, particularly in Auckland. Anglicans' precipitate fall to 6.7%, down from 16.8% 18 years ago is also no surprise. The strategy of trying to blend in with the surrounding secular culture has been a disaster and the failure to think and act nationally has hampered mission initiatives where they were most required. The fact that 2.2 million New Zealanders, 48.6% of the total, now say they have no religion is a wakeup call to the churches. It also explains why governments now think that they can ignore the churches when it comes to introducing controversial legislation on issues such as abortion and euthanasia, formerly no go areas of public policy. Virtue signalling resolutions from church Synods likewise receive scant attention because politicians know they are not backed up by solid voting blocs as in former decades. 38.6% New Zealanders declare themselves to be Christian but we are not able to drill down into this figure to see to what extent it is made up of those who in opinion surveys say that they are spiritual but not religious.

Parish Contacts.

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