



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

The Pebble

5 April 2020

Palm Sunday

Forgiveness is not enough. Belief in redemption is not enough. Wishful thinking about the intrinsic goodness of every human being is not enough. Inclusion is not a sufficiently inclusive message, nor does it deliver real justice. There are some things – many things – that must be condemned and put right if we are to proclaim a God of both justice and mercy. Only a power independent of this world order can overcome the grip of the Enemy of God's purpose for this creation.

Jesus Christ, the heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2), offered himself to be the condemned and rejected Righteous One. Giving himself up in full knowledge – after Gethsemane – of what would happen to him, and in perfect union with the Father, he went to Golgotha carrying his own cross, upon which he was nailed, “despised and rejected by men” (Isaiah 53: 3). At the historical time and place of his inhuman and godless crucifixion, all the demonic Powers loose in the world convened in Jerusalem and unleashed their forces upon the incarnate Son of God. Derelict, outcast and godforsaken, he hung there as the representative of all humanity, and suffered condemnation in place of all humanity, to break the power of Sin and Death over all humanity.

*Fleming Routledge
The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus*

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

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

[Isaiah 50: 4-7](#)

[Matthew 21: 1-11](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The readings for next Sunday will be the extensive set of readings that accompany the Easter Vigil. We will be retrieving the filmed version of our 2015 Easter Vigil and posting it on the homepage of the parish website. That year Bishop Kelvin was with us to confirm a candidate and receive a new member into the Anglican Church.

PARISH NEWS

The St Peter's filmed weekly Mass Each week a St Peter's Eucharist is filmed and then posted on the parish website so that parishioners can view it on Sunday and make an act of spiritual communion in concert with what they see. This consists of an introduction, the readings, the sermon, the intercessions, the Great Thanksgiving Prayer, a dismissal prayer and a blessing. The Vicar also posts a weekly personal message on the website.

Postponed major Anglican gatherings Last week I reported that the Lambeth conference of bishops, due to take place July/August this year, has been postponed until about the same time next year. It is now a virtual certainty that the General Synod that was due to take place in Nelson in May will also be postponed. That fate will also befall the Selwyn Synod supposed to meet at the Mosgiel Anglican church on 2 May to decide whether to sell or retain Selwyn College as a

diocesan institution. There is a question mark also over the diocesan Synod due to meet over the second weekend in September.

Progress report on the parish history Three chapters of the St Peter's Caversham parish history have now been completed. They are *Origins*, how the parish came to be formed in 1864 and the second church built in 1882, *The Oxford Movement Revolution*, how Anglo-Catholicism came to be the dominant style of Anglican belonging in the parish through the ministries of Frs Bryan King, Edward Dering-Evans and Mortimer between 1892 and 1920 and *The Rise and Fall of the Mission churches*, how Holy Cross, St Kilda, St Peter the Less in St Clair and St Albans, Costorphine came to be and what ultimately befell them. The Vicar is currently working on the next chapter *The World of the Laity*, the most difficult chapter so far and one that will take most of the year to write. The next chapters will be *Financing the Church* and *Faith in a Wintry Season* followed of course by a conclusion.

The Rock This month's edition of the Rock has just come out but it wasn't possible to get it printed before the lock down so you can access it on the parish website.

Essential/non Essential Robertson's butchers remained open for a day or two after the government ruling that butchers were not essential services but has now closed. It continues to do home deliveries. This leaves only Nicky's tobacco and vaping products shop and the dairy as the only shops open in the immediate vicinity of the church.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Christie, Paul Hill, John Steele, Rosemary Stott, Gillian Gordon, Anne Bowker, Jane Hill, Lorraine Mitchell and James Bunker.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Robert Rae, Robert Walker, Basil Dickie and Edward Welch.

Going over to direct debit internet banking A big thank you to those who have recently and already made the transition to

direct debit internet banking. This is an important way to help your parish church during this difficult time as a way of continuing your financial support of St Peter's. This is the best way of giving anyway as it ensures a regular cash flow for the parish. If you are not sure how to do this ring Averil Hopkins at 454 2399 and she will help you through the process.

Not all doom and gloom Looking beyond the constant diet of bad news we get from the media saturation coverage of just one issue there are some silver linings in the present situation. Greenhouse gas emissions and pollution levels are down to record low levels. This is the season when colds and flus usually spread but they will receive a major check because of the population's social isolation and because of the vigorous flu immunisation programme under way. This is significant because flu usually clogs hospital beds and kills some vulnerable people. New Zealand's inventory of medical virus protection gear and of ventilators has significantly increased thus increasing the capacity of our health system to deal with the next pandemic threat that virologists tell us is just a matter of time. This crisis and the way the government has handled it has revealed high levels of trust by the public in its government and in its public institutions, an essential component of any country's resilience in dealing with major setbacks.

Parish Contacts.

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