



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

The Pebble

3 May 2020

Easter 4

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you
sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

*A prayer to be used when making an act of spiritual
communion in concert with the St Peter's Sunday Services that
are posted on the parish website. This prayer has been
recommended by the Bishop.*

Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in this online version of the Pebble.
While we are unable to have Services at St Peter's this is now a
publication for a sharing of news and views of interest to
parishioners.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

[Acts 2: 14, 36-41](#)

[1 Peter 2: 20-25](#)

[John 10: 1-10](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Acts 6: 1-7](#)

[1 Peter 2: 4-9](#)

[John 14: 1-12](#)

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 parishioners can view it on Sunday and make an act of spiritual communion in concert with what they see. The Vicar also posts a weekly personal message on the website.

Whether to use YouTube in the future? The present emergency has forced the parish to become creative in reaching out to parishioners through the filmed Service and the Vicar's message posted on the website. An issue to think about is whether the parish should continue to do something like this when normal Services of public worship resume. The filmed Services get more hits than the message but both get a respectable number of viewings. Parishioner suggestions about this would be helpful.

The churches and the government wage subsidy scheme The diocese of Dunedin, along with many other dioceses and churches, have applied for and have received prompt payment from the government wage subsidy scheme. We did not join in the diocesan application as the parish has a strong balance

sheet and well managed finances and therefore does not need taxpayer subsidies. The churches have done well out of this, particularly the Destiny Church, which has received a large dollop of cash. The Dunedin diocese application has been very helpful to parishes like Wakatipu which has lost a lot of income from loss of hall hires and tourist weddings as well as Sunday collections. The application did not cover the salaries of diocesan employees at Peter Mann house. However, there is a potential catch in the receiving of these generous tax payer subsidies. There is a growing strand of militant secularist opinion that points out that churches are not taxed and usually don't have to pay rates and that feels that these privileges should be rescinded. Public knowledge of the help the churches have received through the wage subsidy scheme, and several news outlets have made these figures available, could inflame the critics of church financial privileges to demand their repeal.

The possibility of resumed public worship Late last week the diocese advised that there was the possibility that church Services might resume at level 2 if parishes filed a sufficient health and safety plan with the bishop. Caversham was the first to do this. Negotiations are under way following on from this. A note of caution needs to be sounded about this. There is no guarantee that our plan will be accepted and even if it is there will be stringent health and safety measures in place around our Services, many of which were in place at our last Sunday Services.

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

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Allan Paris, Muriel Jones and Nellie Bremner.

New Zealand's homelessness problem For some time New Zealand's homelessness problem has been growing, a stain on

our national reputation for fairness, equality and care for the vulnerable. Sometimes it takes a crisis to solve a crisis. As the lockdown began the homeless in our major cities were gathered in to motel and hotel rooms with the promise of wrap around services to follow, a significant offer of help as not a few have mental health issues. There is talk too from on high about follow up solutions so they aren't just turned out on the streets again when this is over. Those who live on the streets as opposed to those who have lost out through our growing housing crisis present a complex array of issues as the reasons why some people fall off the world are sometimes not at all clear. Sometimes individuals have suffered a series of setbacks and affronts to their normal sense of stability and have ended up on the streets as they have lost the will to insert themselves into the stream of life. Others are traumatised by past abuse and find human company difficult. For others alcoholism and drug addiction have robbed them of any sense of dignity, self-respect or hope for the future. Some, a few, are adept at begging and make what seems to them a reasonable living on top of the benefit they receive. If the promise of state follow up is true then those tasked with implementing it will have a big challenge ahead of them.

Parish Contacts.

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