



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

## The Pebble

10 May 2020

Easter 5

### Song to the Lord God

Lord God, you are above and beyond all things,  
Your nature is to love,  
You put us in the furnace of the world  
To learn to love you and one another.

Lord Christ, you are the house in whom we live,  
The house in which we share the cup of peace,  
The house of your body that was broken on the cross,  
The house you have built for us beyond the stars.

Lord, Holy Spirit, beyond, within, above,  
Beneath all things, you give us life.  
Blaze in our hearts, you who are Love himself,  
Till we shine like the noonday sun.

Lord God, we are the little children,  
The feeble ones of the world.  
Carry us for ever in your breast, Lord God.,  
Give us the power by love to be your holy ones.

*James K. Baxter*

### 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 6: 1-7](#)

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

[John 14: 1-12](#)

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17](#)

[1 Peter 3: 15-18](#)

[John 14: 15-21](#)

### PARISH NEWS

**A confused and divided response** At first the New Zealand Anglican bishops adopted a united response to the way parishes should proceed at level 2. They would be able to reopen for worship if they provided a sufficient health and safety plan to their bishop who would then authorise them to proceed. This is what Dunedin diocese parishes have been told is required. However different dioceses are now taking different approaches. Waiapu churches will remain closed until level 1 is reached. Wellington's Justin Duckworth has told his parishes to exercise adult responsibility and make their own minds up about what to do on the basis of the government guidelines. This appears to be what Christchurch intends and the Transitional Cathedral will reopen for worship on Sunday 17 May. That is the Sunday St Johns, Roslyn intends to resume Sunday worship on also. In his PhD thesis on the history of the New Zealand Anglican Church since 1945 the Revd Noel Derbyshire, originally from Port Chalmers, pointed to the national disunity of a church that claimed to be a united entity. The 7 Pakeha dioceses were run as independent

fiefdoms by their bishops thus preventing a national strategy of deployment of resources to areas that most needed new mission and parish creation initiatives. That insight is as prescient now as when he first advanced it.

**C of E clergy to stay away from their churches** The leadership of the church of England has instructed clergy to stay away from their churches and not to use them for either filming Services or for their private devotions or for the saying of Morning and Evening Prayer. They may only enter their churches for care and maintenance purposes. This extraordinary decision, one in excess of what the government requires for health and safety purposes, is justified on the grounds that it will show solidarity with the shut in during the lock down who may not leave their homes for anything other than emergency purposes. A groundswell of criticism and opposition to the measure is steadily growing.

**The mystery of the disappearing water resolved** Readers will recall that a considerable volume of water use has been logged on our hall water meter despite the fact that the hall has not been used since the lockdown. Investigation has revealed that the water meter logs water use for both the cottage as well as the hall, which explains the continuing high water use. This may mean that the parish is due for a refund from the DCC since domestic water use is free whereas we are on a commercial rate for the hall. Thus we have been paying the commercial rate for both buildings for years due to the DCCs incorrect assumptions about our meters.

**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** Alfred Chetwin, Glenda Thomas, Emily Idour, John Beatty, Eileen McLeod, John McGlyn and Louise Lewis.

**The Way, the Truth and the Life** In today's gospel text Jesus proclaims "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me." In other words only through him can one come to salvation and be drawn in to the life of God. This exclusivist claim is one of the controversy points for those who take issue with Christian belief. What will happen then to those who have faithfully followed other world religions or who have lived an exemplary good life without religious belief? John's gospel was written at a time of escalating tension between traditional Jewish believers and Christian converts. As time went on this would lead to the scandal of Christian persecution of Jews in those places where Christian belief had become a majority position. Eventually this stain on the reputation of the church would contribute to the vile anti-Semitism of the Third Reich and its attempt to eliminate the Jewish race within the borders of the Nazi empire. Since World War 2 the church has come to its senses and has repented of its contribution to anti-Semitism. Today's text remains as a challenge to Christian Jewish relations. However, New Testament scholars now stress the Jewish background of Jesus and the ways in which his ministry and his claims don't make sense unless you are familiar with his Jewish milieu. Thoughtful Jews too are gratefully aware that Jesus has made the promises and the good news of the God of Israel widely known to Gentiles.

### **Parish Contacts.**

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