



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

The Pebble

19 July 2020

16th Sunday, Year A

There are those who are much exercised by the problem of evil and who find it a real stumbling block to belief in God. They want God to behave in the world's affairs just as the servants in this morning's gospel reading suggested. They want a vigilant God who is ceaselessly active in the doings of humankind, striking down malefactors, raising up the righteous and preventing bad things happening to good people.

We can quickly note two problems with this style of Divine operations. It lets human beings off the hook of being righteous and justice dispensing themselves. A hyper active God would make for a lazy people. And such a God would be the nightmare that atheist philosophers have been warning us about for some time – always breathing down our neck, keeping us under constant surveillance and preventing us from doing things that we consider legitimate enjoyments. Even if some of them are misguided, foolish and selfish how else would we learn from our mistakes and mature as moral agents? Crooks could not be converted and tyrants would not have the time and space to repent and reform. In short such a God would impose severe limits on human freedom.

Excerpt from this morning's sermon

Welcome

to all who are sharing in worship with us today and those who read the Pebble on line. The Pebble assists those who are participants in our Services and also shares news and views of interest to parishioners.

THE LITURGY FOR TODAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (1662)

10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

5.00 pm Evensong and Benediction

HYMNS FOR TODAY

416 O God of Bethel, by whose hand

We sing a threefold *Alleluia* before the gospel reading

355 Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round

304 Once, only once, and once for all

245 God that madest earth and heaven

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

[Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19](#)

The response to [Psalm 86](#) is:

Lord, you are good and forgiving

[Romans 8: 26-27](#)

[Matthew 13: 24-43](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12](#)

[Romans 8: 28-30](#)

[Matthew 13: 44-52](#)

PARISH NEWS

This evening's theme The homily at Evensong and Benediction will be about St Augustine of Hippo's wise words on prayer.

AGM reports available The financial accounts and many of the reports that will be tabled at next Sunday's AGM are available at the back of the church for you to uplift and take home for your perusal so you can arrive at the AGM fully informed.

The common cup We can now receive communion in both kinds. A chalice bearer(s) will stand to the side of the celebrant so you can receive the precious blood if you so choose.

Intinction the practice of dipping the host in the chalice, is now strictly forbidden as a dangerous virus spreading practice.

Morning teas after the 10.30 am Service have resumed. We are looking for new volunteers to join the morning tea roster. Please let Di Bunker know if you are able to help in this way.

Ladies' Fellowship group The Fellowship group will resume its normal cycle of meetings on Tuesday 25 August.

Monastery building in trouble As the ferry sails in to Wellington harbour one of the prominent buildings that stands out above Oriental Bay is St Gerard's monastery. Originally the home of the Redemptorist order it now houses a Catholic evangelization organisation. The building complex faces an \$11 million earthquake strengthening bill but its owners have only raised just over \$40,000 and time is running out. The Council is only prepared to offer limited financial assistance and suggests that the owners dispose of some of the buildings since the church itself is up to code and is the only building with a heritage listing. At our AGM next Sunday there will be a full briefing on where St Peter's is up to with its earthquake strengthening proposals.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Christie, Paul Hill, John Steele, Rosemary Stott, Anne Bowker, Rita-May Brown, Sarah Rolfe, Richard and Carol Devine, Max Stacey, Catherine Russel and Jane Hill.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Beatrice Beattie, Evelyn Ward, Dorothy Dickie, Arthur Hughes and Irene Wright.

Lambeth conference postponed again The world wide gathering of Anglican bishops convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury was to have occurred in the English summer this year. It had already been delayed by several years as Justin Welby tried to make thorough preparations to ensure its smooth operation and deft handling of potentially divisive issues. As the covid crisis broke it was decided to delay it to 2021. Now it has been put back again until 2022 because of the continuing and mounting covid crisis around the world. To some extent this has the effect of putting some of the Anglican Communion's hot button issues in deep freeze as major decisions on difficult issues are postponed. Lambeth's rival gathering of GAFCON bishops, which was to have occurred in Rwanda, has also been postponed. Recently GAFCON Australia had a nationwide zoom Service. Predictably Bishop Jay Behan of the New Zealand Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans had a speaking slot, but so also did the bishop of Nelson. This would not have thrilled the NZ Anglican bishops as it could be a straw in the wind as to which way Nelson will go in the end.

Parish AGM

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of parishioners of St Peter's Caversham will be held on Sunday 26 July after the 10.30 am Service for the purpose of hearing and receiving the reports of the Vicar and the Wardens, receiving the accounts for the year past, electing the People's Warden, the Vestry, the Synod representatives and the Auditor and discussing any general business.

Parish Contacts.

Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Bowron - 455- 3961

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