



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

The Pebble

17 January 2021 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answers.

Rainer Maria Rilke

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

200 Jesus calls us

We sing a threefold *Alleluia* before the gospel reading

375 I danced in the morning

393 Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us

420 O Jesus, I have promised

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

[1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19](#)

The response to [Psalm 40](#) is:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will

[1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20](#)

[John 1: 35-42](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Jonah 3: 1-5, 10](#)

[1 Corinthians 7: 29-31](#)

[Mark 1: 14-20](#)

PARISH NEWS

Gutter cleaning The gutters of the church, the hall and the vicarage have been given a thorough clean out in the past week so we are now ready for the next major downpour.

The flag is up After a prolonged absence due to unsettled and windy weather the flag is up.

Vicar on leave Fr Hugh will be away in Christchurch from tomorrow until Saturday 30 January. Fr James Harding will be the celebrant and preacher next Sunday.

Move preparations underway Fr Hugh's books and book cases were packed up and moved to Christchurch this past week. With difficult decisions to be made about how much of his present possessions can be fitted into his retirement house this first and preliminary uplift is intended to give him an idea of how much space is left over for the second and final uplift. Fr Hugh will stay on in the Vicarage for a fortnight after his final day in office on Easter Sunday to give him time to sort out, throw out and sell off possessions that are surplus to requirements.

Tree trim and removal Last Friday Delta trimmed our Baker Street trees whose branches were obtruded onto power lines and cut down the tree with the bifurcated trunk as agreed with St Peter's.

Cheques being phased out Please be aware that cheques will not be accepted by any bank after 31 May. Parishioners who are including cheques in their envelope giving will need to find a different way of making their regular donations to the parish by May. There is some helpful advice on our website - see the link on the home page.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Christie, Paul Hill, John Steele, Rosemary Stott, Sarah Rolfe, Richard and Carol Devine, Lorraine Mitchell, Greta Barton, Eileen Pratt and Joy Henderson.

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Thomas Dutton, Christine Robinson and Mary Graveson.

Parish Contacts.

Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Bowron - 455- 3961

Assistant Priest: Fr Kit Bunker - 477-2474

Vicar's Warden: Deirdre Harris - 455-0071

People's Warden and envelope recorder: Di Bunker - 477-2474

Director of Music: David Hoskins - 453-4621

The woes of the Church of England The Church of England is facing a threefold crisis. Repeated covid lockdowns have led some of its regular churchgoers to lose the habit of churchgoing and have dried up the supply of regular money in the plate to finance parishes. Some parishes and dioceses are on the brink of financial crisis with some parish closures inevitable. Clergy layoffs have begun and will continue. Informed speculation has it that some dioceses will be amalgamated and that there will be a wholesale cull of bishops. The *Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse in England and Wales* has published its reports with damning conclusions about the inadequate safeguarding procedures and unhelpful background culture of the C of E. This has led to a considerable loss of spiritual and moral respect for the church. An expensive programme of pay-outs to abuse survivors is under way. In an attempt to deal with the human sexuality conundrum the *Living in Love and Faith* materials have been produced, a set of print and visual offerings with often heart felt interviews with those on both sides of the debate. It is hoped that this will open up respectful conversations across the church that will persuade Anglicans to attend to others' points of view. Sensing, probably correctly, that LLF is intended to soften the C of E up to accept ecclesial gay marriage in the next few years conservative evangelicals have released *The Beautiful Story*, a professionally produced on line film that restates the church's traditional teaching on marriage and human sexuality and mentions the possibility of a mass exodus of conservative evangelicals. This has caused outrage amongst the Anglican LGBTQI constituency. In the event of a mass exodus the question would be how many of the church plants and other recent bold mission initiatives would the conservative evangelicals take with them since they specialise in such young person's recruitment tools and tactics.