



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

The Pebble

31 January 2021 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Faithful God,
your Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth,
spoke the truth with authority,
and you confirmed his teaching by wondrous deeds.
Through his healing presence,
drive far from us all that is unholy,
so that by word and deed
we may proclaim him Messiah and Lord
and bear witness to your power to heal and save,
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit
God for ever and ever.

*Opening Prayers: Collects in Contemporary Language
International Commission on English in the Liturgy*

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

HYMNS FOR TODAY

206 Christ is our cornerstone

We sing a threefold *Alleluia* before the gospel reading

362 Glorious things of thee are spoken

299 My spirit longs for thee (T.499)

314 With solemn faith (T.384)

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

[Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)

The response to [Psalm 95](#): *If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.*

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

[Mark 1: 21-28](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Malachi 3: 1-4](#)

[Psalm 84](#)

[Hebrews 2: 14-18](#)

[Luke 2: 22-40](#)

PARISH NEWS

Welcome Back. We welcome back Fr Hugh from leave and thank Fr Kit and Fr James for leading our worship while he was away.

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

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. We recommend direct giving by means of internet banking. There is some helpful advice on our website – see the link on the home page.

Midweek Eucharist is celebrated in the Parish Lounge, Thursdays at 10 am.

Frances Hodgkins Service The Anglican Eucharist will be celebrated at Frances Hodgkins at 11 am on Thursday.

Bishop to take Low Sunday Services Bishop Steven Benford will take the Sunday morning Services on Low Sunday, the Sunday after Fr Hugh steps down from office.

The Rock. The latest edition of the Parish magazine, the Rock, is available at the back of church and in the Link.

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

Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time Norman Rodgers, Martin Stephenson, and Norman Malcolmson.

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 data driven diocese of Dunedin The New Zealand Anglican church collects more statistics on church going than just about any other church in our Islands. Yet in the boom years of church attendance in the 1940s and 1950s Dunedin diocese parishes were only obliged to declare their Easter communicant figures. Roger Taylor let his parishioners know about annual communicant figures through the 1950s because he totted them up for the parish AGM and then declared them in the parish magazine. It was not until 1963 that the diocese required parishes to declare their annual communicant figures although this did not necessarily give the full picture on church attendance because these figures could rise if a parish scheduled more celebrations of the Eucharist while de-emphasising non-Eucharistic services. In an attempt to address this reality the diocese would require parishes to also declare their total annual attendance figure from 1985 on. As decline set in the questions asked by the annual diocesan statistical return became more searching and the resulting data became more useful. From 1973 on parishes were required to declare the number of families under regular pastoral care and the number of regular financial givers. Here at last was data of real value in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of parish life. In 1999 the first question was changed to the revealing “number of individuals active in parish life,” an acknowledgement that few complete families were to be found in the pews and that the hinterland of nominal Anglicans passively receiving some degree of pastoral attention had drastically shrunk. What counted now was the number of parishioners regularly turning up and making some kind of contribution to parish life.