



# THE ROCK



## The Anglican/Episcopal Parish of St. Peter Caversham, Dunedin, NZ

### From the Temporary Interim Priest

Dear Friends,

One of the highlights of any Synod is the Bishop's address. This usually contains a review of the past year in the Diocese, and also signals the hopes and plans of the Bishop for the year which is to come. Bishop Kelvin's address at the just-concluded Synod, followed that pattern. For me, it encapsulated facing the facts, and hopes of how to cope with them.

There is a wonderful Hans Andersen fairy story about the king's new clothes. How everybody said how wonderful things were, when in fact they were nothing of the sort. (If you don't know the story - ask me. It's wonderful.)

Sometimes we have been inclined to do the same in church life., and avoid facing reality. But things are not wonderful. The truth is that our congregations have been declining. Everyone knows it. I quote from the Bishop: "Our own canons state that if anyone wants to form a new parish they must have at least 20 people willing to form the core of the new congregation. If we applied that rule to existing parishes, several of ours would disappear at the stroke of a pen."

Anglicans are not alone. Every diocese in the country, every mainstream denomination, and even some of the newer denominations face the same problems. So also do secular groups - Lions, Rotary, Scouts, Red Cross, and clubs of all kinds. That is the plain and simple truth.

We can, of course, simply say that these are the times - and we can't do much about them. Or we can face the facts - and determine that they are not going to defeat us. That we will do our best to devise new strategies, new concepts that will give us hope. And that is what I thought the Bishop's address did - gave us the facts - and gave us hope. Elsewhere in the Rock I have written something about those strategies. Maybe they will help to drag us into the twenty-first century. To give us fresh life. New hope.

None of us knows what the future holds. Some cynics say the church is dying. It will change - change beyond anything we could imagine in the future. . . But dying? Never. Because if it is a divine institution, of God, how can it die?

Blessings, Bernard



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### Hospital Chapel-Assistance - Advance Notice

The next Sunday allotted to St Peter's to assist in getting patients to the Dunedin Hospital Chapel for their 10.30am service is the Sunday of Labour Weekend, 23rd October. As usual I will phone those on my list in the week preceding to see whether they will be available on the day. If you haven't helped with this ministry before and are interested to find out more please either call me on 455 1642 or email me at [gemi@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:gemi@slingshot.co.nz)

Michael Forrest,  
Convenor of Chapel-Service Helpers from St Peter's,  
Caversham.



## VESTRY IN BRIEF

At the September meeting of Vestry, the following items were of note:

- Some parishioners are uncertain about the new, hall water heater; a notice is to be posted stating it is always boiling.
- Ross McComish has generously offered a monthly donation towards the cost of flowers.
- Vestry thanked an anonymous donor for \$100 to provide native plants for the garden.
- Our insurance premium has increased and is expected to increase again next year.
- Synod representative Ian Condie presented a written report on synod.
- In response to a plea from the Dean to use Trinitarian collects, it was noted that ours are Trinitarian and are from the Church of Canada.
- More thermal drapes have been obtained for the vicarage by Averil.
- A second working bee on the gardens has been arranged for October 8th. Toroa Lion's Club will be helping out again.
- David Scoular has checked out the fire regulations and a new evacuation plan is required. The instructions for use of the hall that we provide cover the matter of fire regulations for hall-user groups.
- Copies of the book on Dunedin churches has arrived.
- David Scoular presented drafts of a 'welcome' card and posters advertising St. Peter's; these were well received.
- It was proposed that cards showing the times of the Christmas services at St. Peter's should be distributed in a letter box drop.

Heather Brooks (Vestry Secretary)

## A WARDEN'S WARBLE

Last Sunday, the 9th of October, it was with great pleasure that we were able to announce the appointment of Reverend Hugh Bowron as the next Vicar of St Peter's Caversham.

Fr Hugh comes to us from the Parish of Avonside in Christchurch and will be available to take up his appointment in the New Year.

Recently Fr Hugh spent the weekend in Dunedin and officiated and preached at our Sunday services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. His visit was much appreciated by all those who attended those services on Sunday, September the 25th. We are delighted that he has accepted his new appointment.

The process of finding our new Vicar has been a very prolonged one for your nominators, with many frustrations and much stress. We are thrilled to have secured the services of a very knowledgeable, and able priest who will lead us in the worship and fellowship we enjoy at St Peters.

Joy Henderson - Peoples Warden

## WALNUTS

**Anne Wilkinson, of Oamaru, sells walnuts for Save the Children. A big box full she sent down to S. Peter's disappeared faster than snow in a nor'wester. But if you missed out, there are still plenty more - just ask Bernard.**



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What an exciting time it is at the moment. I refer of course to the appointment of our new Vicar Rev Fr Hugh Bowron. From the little I know about him one cannot avoid being filled with anticipation and excitement. I am sure the welcome he will receive when he arrives will attest to our delight. Well done Fr Hugh...

Congratulations must also go to the nomination board and in particular to our Parish nominators. It has been said that their task was long, full of frustration, and very time consuming. We are very grateful for their diligent deliberations and of course in their unanimous selection. Please take a bow nominators.

Plans are being made for his installation sometime in February and in the interim we have been advised that our steadfast friend and temporary Vicar Ven Bernard will continue until Fr Hugh takes over.

What a wonderful interregnum we have had. We have all been very blessed with the service that all the various clergy have bestowed upon us but of course in particular the mainstay has been Bernard. He commented the other day that he has enjoyed being part of our parish, "Its like having a true parish again" His enthusiasm, commitment, and energy certainly support this statement. Thank you Fr Bernard.

One of the thorny issues which has surfaced lately concerns our insurance cover. Because of the Christchurch events, the principal Church insurer has withdrawn from the market and we are

## EDITORIAL



unlikely to have building insurance beyond March next year. Clearly there is much figurative water to flow under the bridge yet and many high level meetings are taking place with the Anglican Insurance Board in Wellington as this effects some 460 Anglican Churches nationwide. It is a national issue. They have stated that some 9 million dollars is paid annually to the insurance companies for building insurance. One cannot help wondering why the Board is not considering simply investing this money in a co-operative manner. Over a very short time there would be a reserve of well over a 100 million dollars, and in the longer term a huge reserve could be built up. Indeed I read somewhere that the Moslem churches of New Zealand are indeed considering this strategy. I guess time will tell who is right.

For those who take the time to walk around the Vicarage grounds, you will notice some significant change. Overgrown trees have been removed and providing the weather holds for Saturday, a major gardening effort will transform the Vicarage grounds into a pristine paradise, complete with the prospect of a new fence on Baker Street, the removal of the troublesome broom, and the

probability an upgrade to the fence of the adjoining the property to the north side. It should all look like we do care. Well done to all those volunteers who so cheerfully have given their time and effort. I must mention the contribution of Neil Scrymgeour and Bernard Wilkinson, neither of them young men anymore but full of willingness and vigor to lend a hand. Again well done gents and also to the others...!

I have been hearing rumblings about the state of the hall and particularly of the kitchen. Apparently some users are not giving much attention to clearing up after themselves. Please, if you are part of a group using the hall, do make a little more effort to see that it is tidy and clean when you leave. Clearly Vestry will address the problem of outside users.

This brings me to the subject of the overall state of the facility. In a few words - very shabby - in need of a complete makeover - upgrade of the kitchen - some redecoration of the wall surfaces in the hall also needed.

Perhaps if the facility was upgraded it would have more appeal for other groups to hire it, thus enabling us to increase the rate thus extending our income from it. What do you think or is it just me?

Yours in Christ

Dereck Gray  
Editor



## Our Parishioners



David, & Carol Crosbie  
with Selah

We have had a very colourful life, mixed with drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence, jail, and the Lord.

We met in 1990 at a drinking party when David pulled up on his Harley Davidson - it was love at first sight. We shifted to Nelson where the drinking got more serious. We decided it was time to sort out our lives. David turned to the Lord and we moved to Cromwell where I also gave my life to the Lord. We lived there for 10 years, we married and I was a nurse

aide at the Ripponburn Hospital. David's drinking and attraction to the rougher side of life drew the wrong crowd and we then joined the Salvation Army. David studied to become a plasterer and we decided to move to Dunedin for more work opportunities. I studied at the Polytech in business studies and secured a job with Port Otago. David's drinking put him in jail two times before he called out to the Lord for help.

We have lived opposite St Peter's for about 10 years now and we met Fr Carl. Now we like Fr Carls style and joined the church and dedicated our lives to the Lord Jesus. We put in as much time as possible to help out at St Peter's where we can. Our hobbies include reading, motorbikes, fishing and cross-stitch, although I now suffer badly from arthritis. David has given up drinking and is now involved in AA. He has given up his old patch for his new patch which supports Christian motorcycling. Eight years ago we got a collie dog and Selah has become a very much treasured member of the family even being blessed in St Peters by Fr Carl. In closing we enjoy St Peter's and feel very much part of the team there. We wish everyone there God's best wishes.

Carol, David, & Selah

## St Peter's Women's Group

The Pot Luck meal for our new whole church fellowship group was a grand success.

Prior to our sumptuous meal Pamela Welsh spoke on her work in assisting the integration of new Immigrants into our community. Hopefully we as a group will in the future contribute in some way to this work.

As Pamela pointed out these people are essential to the growth of our city and even a smile will make them feel more welcome. On the 25th of October we are having a games evening and all are welcome to join in the fun. The end of year function is to be at the Mornington Tavern at 6.30 on the 22nd November.

Raylene has booked us in but has to advise of numbers. Please signify your intention to go to one of the group contact persons.

Raylene Ralston 477-0022 (D/T) 455-9535, Dawn Bachop 455-3933, Gay Webb 4761613, Coral Paris 454-3735, Gwen Hudson 455-7100

## From Synod

Ever since this diocese was founded, it has been built on the concept of parishes. A group of believers and worshippers, in a region, with one priest. Hence the parish of Caversham, of Anderson's Bay, of Oamaru, of Invercargill. And smaller country parishes - Tapanui, Wyndham, Maniototo, etc. There were parish boundaries, and by and large, you didn't cross them.

Especially in country areas, declining populations have meant a slow death to the parish unit. The same is true of some larger urban areas. What seemed a good structure in the 20th century will no longer be a viable arrangement in the 21st. We have to look at restructuring our diocese to meet the demands of the present, and the foreseeable future. The concept of one priest, one parish, is diminishing. I quote from Bishop Kelvin:

*"Across the diocese the need to cooperate across parish boundaries is becoming more urgent, and this is represented in the arrival of the Rev. Angela Dutton, our first Regional Dean. Drawing on the example of the Taranaki Episcopal region, we are pressing ahead with the formation of cooperative units in various parts of the diocese. In general, we will be leaving parishes intact and inviting vestries to continue in the stewardship of parish buildings, and resources, while at the same time encouraging the deployment of personnel resources - lay and ordained, stipendiary and gifted - across parish boundaries. As regional teams develop, our lay ministers, deacons and priests will be encouraged to see themselves primarily as spiritual leaders, rather than parish managers and administrators. Diaconal and priestly formation will be given a new emphasis in the training of our clergy*

*We are also looking hard at the provision of social services and have recently reformed the social services board and begun the exploration of ways in that our aged care institutions can cooperate in the provision of their services."*

As the Bishop says, restructuring is under way in Gore. In North Otago, there are conversations going on at present between the parishes of Warrington - Waikouaiti-Palmerston-Hampden, Maheno and Oamaru, and Waitaki North Oamaru. Similar discussions are taking place between Green Island, Mornington, and Holy Cross.. And these will doubtless not be the last.

(It is worth noting that other major denominations in Otago and Southland are undergoing similar changes. We are not alone !)

What might the report be to next Synod ?

Bernard

## Friendship Group

The St Peter's Fellowship Group met on Tuesday where we had a chat over tea and coffee. We all agreed to have our end of year meeting with a luncheon at The Home of St Barnabas on Tuesday, 8th November costing \$10. Members may like to attend the Eucharist at 11am in the St Barnabas Chapel led by Fr Carl.

Contact Gay Webb phone 4761613

## The Anglo-Catholics: 7: All in the Family

This is the story of a family – two brothers, two daughters and a nephew. The eldest of the two brothers was King Charles II, who was restored to the throne of England after a long period in exile with the rest of his family. Although the Anglo-Catholic faith flourished in England during his reign, a grave mistake had been made.



Charles II

Heavily influenced by Archbishop Laud, Parliament had favoured uniformity (all must have the same religious belief) as opposed to tolerance (variation in religious belief is allowed). The various laws that were passed divided the Anglican Church in a way that is still evident today, the Protestant dissenters being driven out to eventually form their own churches. The Roman Catholics, unpopular since the time of Mary Tudor, remained on the outer and there were no attempts at reconciliation.

In 1685 Charles died and his younger brother James II succeeded him, but there was a problem. James had converted to Rome and refused to take communion in the Anglican Church, even at his own coronation. One of his early declarations as monarch was to ban bonfires on November the 5th (the day that Roman Catholic Guy Fawkes intended to blow up the Houses of Parliament). Supported by the old aristocratic families living in the north and west of the country, James issued two declarations of indulgences (1687 and 1688), which



James II

suspended previous laws against dissenters and Roman Catholics. When Parliament tried to prevent this move, James dismissed them. For the first time since Mary Tudor's reign, Roman Catholics were favoured with positions of high authority in the army, navy, civil service and the universities; there were many who converted in the hope of such a position. Still, the Anglo-Catholics did not lose by this turn of events and high

churchmanship was still very much in favour.

Within three years, James had become so unpopular that Parliament invited William of Orange, to become the monarch. William was both James' nephew and his son-in-law (being married to James' daughter Mary), so at least it could be said

that Parliament was keeping it "all in the family". William's affection for his uncle was clearly insufficient to hold him back and blown by a 'protestant wind' he sailed down the English Channel landing at Torbay in Devon on a very auspicious day - November 5th. Hearing the news that supporters, including army deserters, were flocking to his nephew, James fled, dropping the Great Seal into the Thames as he went.

So began another reign, this time by a Dutch, Calvinist King. Fortunately, everyone had grown tired of religious strife. However, among the

clergy there were many who believed so strongly in the divine right of James to rule that they could not pledge allegiance to the new King. During William's reign, a much needed Act of Toleration was passed allowing dissenters to have their own places of worship (but not the Roman Catholics).

Under William, the Anglican Church flourished and the later years of his reign saw the formation of many religious societies promoting piety and humanitarian aid. Samuel Wesley (father of John Wesley) became a

supporter of the church overseas and Sir Thomas Bray founded the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (it's still going today). Prisons were reformed, hospitals founded, morals and decency were promoted.



William of Orange

Although the Anglo-Catholic faith remained a mystery to William, his wife Mary was a good Anglican and her sister Anne, the next reigning monarch, was sympathetic to the high church. Yet on Anne's succession to the throne in 1702, the country was just as divided as ever: Parliament versus the Royalists; Calvinists against the Roman Catholics; High church versus low church. The middle way of a reformed, Catholic church as envisaged by Queen Elizabeth I had become not so much a path as a battleground. Does it get any better? We'll let you know by installments.

Cheers, Heather and Ross

## Parish News

The vicarage is almost restored to its former glory - if you haven't had a tour inside, please be sure to do so. It's open on Sundays if you ask.

The church and vicarage grounds are also benefiting from an extensive pruning and tidying. Trees that have grown unpruned for years are being culled and light let into buildings. Thanks to all who are helping in this.

By the time you read this, the Great Hymn Sing will be past. We truly hope it was a lot of fun - it was meant to be.

Bronwyn - our excellent Diocesan Manager - is this month attending a conference of Insurers of church property. Comments at Synod made it very clear we are in for some real shocks. Not just in premiums, but in conditions.

"May you live in interesting times" - quoted by the Bishop at Synod. We certainly do!

For some months after Fr Carl retired, home communions were undertaken by the Rev Peter Stapleton, of Anderson's Bay. He had to discontinue this ministry, and I am so pleased that it has been continued by the Rev Pamela Welch. From us all, thank you, Pamela.

### Amendment to the Parish Contact-List

Please note that Fr Geoff Hughes and Mr Michael Forrest have changed their ISP since the original gathering of data for the Contact-List, which means that their email-address has changed. It is now [gemi@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:gemi@slingshot.co.nz). Please amend your contact-List accordingly. Thank you.

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## Introducing Fr Hugh Bowron



This is the second time I have been Vicar of a St Peters, for I was the Vicar of St Peter's, Willis St, in inner city Wellington for ten years. Before that I was the Vicar of St Mary's, Addington in Christchurch for nine years. That was after my four years as a country Vicar of Ellesmere in Mid Canterbury; at the same time I might add that Bishop Kelvin was the Vicar of Waiho Downs, so we began our sole charge ministries at the same time.

I was of that generation that went into the priesthood straight from university. The difference from many of my contemporaries is that I trained in Britain at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. That meant that the religious community in the monastery adjoining the College was a major influence on the way we were formed for ministry. Amongst other things we were introduced to a high standard of liturgical competence. There was also the expectation that a priest would be a man of prayer, a spiritual leader first and foremost, who would know what they were about in trafficking in things of the spirit.

I am no stranger to Dunedin, having visited my son Tim often in his student flat in the North East valley. Currently he is finishing his Spanish masters degree in Wellington. We spent July together in Spain, where his fluent Spanish was extremely helpful as we made our way around the pilgrimage sites of Montserrat and Compostela, and the medieval cities of the interior. My daughter Katie is studying plant biology at Canterbury University. It has been an intriguing change of direction from her first degree in architecture at Victoria.

I have also come to Dunedin for theology conferences to pursue my particular interest in systematic theology. The theology department at Otago is well known to me. The doctrine of God, with a particular emphasis on Trinitarian theology, and Pneumatology, the theology of the Holy Spirit, has become an absorbing interest in recent years.

In my spare time I watch lots of art house movies, read history, novels, and poetry. I also enjoy classical music and visiting art galleries.

The great thing about being a parish priest is that you become involved in the lives of a wide variety of people, and come to share in their joys and sorrows at major turning points in their lives. A colleague of mine once said to me, "This is a job Hugh that finds out all your immaturity, and makes you do something about it." There have been times when I have felt out of my depth in encountering people at times of primal need, and have thought to myself, "This is more interesting than just about anything else I could have done." I thank God for the people of God who have enriched me in so many ways through the privilege of ministering to them over the past thirty years.

## The Orthodox Church of Antioch.

We at St. Peter's pray every Sunday for the Orthodox Church of Antioch. Have you ever wondered why? Well, members of this church arrived in Dunedin over a hundred years ago, in the 1880s and 1890s. Many had come by circuitous routes, via South America or Australia, but they originated in the coastal area of Lebanon, near Tripoli. They were referred to in early Dunedin as Assyrians, probably because their branch of the church owes allegiance to the patriarch of Antioch, which is in Syria (though the patriarch himself now lives in Constantinople) and their liturgy was in Arabic. In recent years, members have been drawn from many other Orthodox areas, such as Russia, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, the Ukraine or Romania.

Our Anglican connection with this group of Christians is of long standing as Bishop Nevill (1871-1919) was concerned to foster Anglican-Orthodox relations. The first Orthodox Eucharist in Dunedin was held in St. Peter's in 1910 and when St. Michael's Orthodox Church, in Fingal Street, was consecrated on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1911, Bishop Nevill was there with several other of our clergy. A supportive relationship has been maintained through the years, and the Anglican clergy of both St. Peter's and Holy Cross have often taken services for the Orthodox when they have had no priest. Our buildings, including the cathedral, have been used for special services, such as weddings.

Next month, November, the Lebanese community in Dunedin is holding a 'centenary celebration' (the date set by the building of St. Michael's Church). Descendants of the original settlers will gather for a dinner and open days will be held at St Michael's Church. One of those organizing the celebration, Wayne Idour, is a direct descendant of the Mr. Idour, who with a Mr. Bundo, raised the funds to build St. Michael's in 1911. Others involved have names well known in Dunedin, such as Malcom Farry, who is descended from the other group of Lebanese who came here in the late nineteenth century. They were members of the Maronite Church and came from the mountain villages of Becharre, in North Lebanon. Maronites have an ancient Syriac liturgy and owe direct allegiance to the Patriarch of Antioch but they acknowledge the authority of the Pope.

Those who came here were absorbed, with some difficulty, into the predominantly Irish Catholicism of Dunedin, but otherwise retained their Lebanese identity and culture. There has been marriage within the two groups of Lebanese and also marriage outside, down the years. It is believed that there are at least 1000 descendants of the original Lebanese settlers: the celebration should be a good one! It is possible that we from St. Peter's will be able to visit St Michael's on an open day and offer our congratulations. We can certainly continue to hold the Orthodox in our prayers.

*Contributed by Rev Pamela Welsh*

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I think most of you are aware that the latter part of July and then August have been a pretty traumatic time for Michael and myself. On July 15<sup>th</sup> I was rushed to hospital during the night as I had suffered a rather serious heart attack (I thought it was one of my recurrent respiratory problems!). I stayed in hospital for a fortnight expertly attended by Doctors and Nurses. I was sent home in time to celebrate my 86<sup>th</sup> birthday with a nice meal out with Mike, my son Mark and Toby my Hearing Dog. Just over a day later, on August 9<sup>th</sup> at a quarter past midnight, Toby had some sort of seizure and died in my arms. It was totally unexpected and was a terrible shock. It has taken Mike and myself a long time to come to grips with it as we were totally devastated.

On both occasions I was inundated with prayers, visits, gifts, cards, letters, phone-calls and emails from kind and sympathetic folk, many of them being members of our St. Peter's family. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your concern and understanding; it has been a tremendous help and I shall never forget it.

God Bless you all,

Fr: Geoff.

## Diocesan Appointments

### Celebrations of New Ministries

The Revd Eric Kyte is to be installed as Vicar of St John's Roslyn on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 7:00 p.m.

The Revd Angela Dutton is to be installed as Rural Dean of Waimea Plains and Gore & Districts on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00 p.m., St Mark's, Riversdale.

*(Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles.)*

### Appointments

Ms Gillian Townsley has been appointed Chaplain and Teacher of Religious Education at St Hilda's Collegiate School. Gillian will start her new position on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

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# THE ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ST. PETER, CAVERSHAM, DUNEDIN. NZ.

## Regular Worship Services

*please consult calendar for variations*

ALL SUNDAYS: 8am Holy Eucharist  
10.30am Solemn Eucharist

ALL THURSDAYS 10:00am Eucharist

SUNDAYS OF THE CALENDAR MONTH AT 7pm:

These services are not being held for the next month at this stage

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Rev Fr Hugh Bowron  
PHONE 03-389 6948 (Office)

#### INTERIM TEMPORARY

##### PRIEST

Ven Bernard Wilkinson  
Phone: 03-434 5514

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People's Warden: Joy Henderson  
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Vestry Secretary: Heather Brooks  
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## CALENDAR

*with festivals and observances*

*Note: There are too many observances in the month of July to list them all, thus these are a selection - the full list appears on page 21 of the New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Sun 16 October - 17th Sunday after Trinity**

Mon 17th October - Ignatius. B. of Antioch, c.107

Tue 18th October - St Luke, Evangelist

Wed 19th October - Tarore of Waharoa

**Sun 23rd October - 18th Sunday after Trinity**  
St James of Jerusalem

Mon 24th October - Raphael, Archangel  
United Nations Day

Thu 28th October - St Simon & St Jude, Apostles

**Sun 31st October - 19th Sunday after Trinity**

Tue 1st November - All Saints Day

Wed 2nd November - All Souls Day

**Sun 6th November - 20th Sunday after Trinity**  
Te Whiti o Rongomai. Prophet, 1907

Tue 8th November - Saints and Martyrs of the  
Anglican Communion

Thu 10th November - Leo the Great, B. Rome, 461

Fri 11th November - Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397

**Sun 13th November - 21st Sunday after Trinity**

Wed 16th November - Margaret Queen of Scotland

Thu 17th November - Hilda, Abbess of Whitby

Fri 18th November - Hugh, B. of Lincoln, 1200

**Sun 20th November - 22nd Sunday after Trinity**  
Aotearoa Sunday

Tue 22nd November - Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, 230

Wed 23rd November - Clement B. Rome, c100

**Sun 27th November - 1st Sunday of Advent**

Wed 30th November - St Andrew, Apostle, Martyr