



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

14th April 2024 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

EASTER 3 Year B



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is morning tea in the church lounge after the 10am Service.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Please turn off your mobile phone during the service.

Liturgy Page 456 NZPB

Psalm 4

NZPB Page 200

First Reading:

Acts 3:12-21

Bible Page 887

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-7

Bible Page 990

Gospel:

Luke 24:36-48

Bible Page 861

Sentence: Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. *Acts 3:19,20*

Prayer for the Day

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war, and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear
in justice, love, and peace,
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

All are welcome to receive communion

**Prayers and anointing for healing are available during communion
in the chapel, at the back of the church.**

Theme

Easter is much more than Easter Sunday. It lasts for 50 days. All the way to Pentecost. And during this time, we hear stories of the resurrection and how those first disciples responded. We hear them not to be convinced of the truth of the resurrection, but to be opened to our own experiences of the resurrection, and to take time to reflect on how we respond. This Sunday we hear stories from Luke.

From what some of you have told me there are a whole range of reactions and questions around the resurrection. We are not sure how to understand it. Did it happen? How did it happen? What does it mean? What should I do with it?

We are not alone with our doubts and questions. The stories we have been reading over the last weeks present disciples who are filled with fear and trembling, who run, stay silent, doubt, disbelieve, hide, give up, leave town, disbelieve even in their joy and wonder, need proof, are confused, not even recognising Jesus when he is among them. I'm sure we can find ourselves in there somewhere.

In today's Gospel Luke says that Jesus opened the disciples' minds to the mind of scripture. In Luke, this is the key moment. Sure, the Risen Jesus tries his hardest to meet their confusion, questions, doubts, disbelief. In the end it needs more. It needed their minds to be opened to meaning of scripture. The same is true for us.

This is more than learning proof texts and memory verses and applying them to Jesus. You will struggle to find many places in the Older Testament that talk about the need for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day. It is more than knowing scripture and how it all holds together. It is more than giving intellectual ascent to the tenants of faith. It is, as John reminds us in his letter and Luke in his account in Acts, about having our imagination shaped by God's unfailing love. We are made in love, held in love, restored by love. The resurrection is God's affirmation of the way of love lived in Jesus's life and crucifixion. When our minds are opened to this, we begin to be shaped by that love, and become witnesses to that love.

The next months hold a lot of uncertainty for this parish. In a way we are like those first disciples as we look ahead. This Easter we are invited to be opened to our own experiences of resurrection. We are invited as a parish to have our imaginations shaped by God's unfailing love, and to be opened to how we might live that out in this place without a vicar.

May your ordinary experiences be transformed by the love of God revealed in the risen Jesus. May we all be part of what happens next.

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Oropi, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepont, Whanau Aroha Centre, Hodgson House, and Merivale Community Centre.

We pray for those who are dying, sick, in hospital or in any other kind of need, parishioners in rest homes and those who receive home communion and any others you hold in your hearts at this time.

Our Church: We pray for the people & clergy of the Parish of Whakatane; Waiapu Kids St. George's Manager; the people & their Ministry Support Team of the Edgumbe-Kawerau Parish.

Our World: We pray for the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) & Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA); for Australia's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders peoples – for reconciliation & justice in the wake of the “no” vote to constitutional reconciliation.

Notices

Thank you to all those who came to help at the working bee last Saturday. Everything is sparkling now 😊



Tauranga Dawn Service, 5.45am to 7am, Tauranga RSA Cenotaph, 1237 Cameron Road - Dawn parade timetable: 5.45am – assemble at Hayes Avenue, 5.55am – March off, 6am – service begins.



Battle of Pukehinahina - Gate Pa Day Commemoration- Monday 29th April.

As part of the 160th commemoration we are holding a service at 4pm, remembering those who fought and died here; the consequences for ngā iwi o Tauranga Moana; and to offer prayers/karakia for the future. This year John is offering some reflections. All are encouraged to attend.

Safeguarding Training - All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Some of us are expected to do all three workshops. You do not need to do these all at once.

Level One Part One - May 3 - Friday afternoon - 1.30 to 4.30pm.

Level One Part 2 – May 4 - Saturday morning - 9.30am – 12.30pm

Level Two – May 4 Saturday afternoon - 1.30 to 4.30pm

Level One (Part one and two) is for everyone who offers ministry of any kind. You can space it how you do these. John would encourage everyone to do at least the Friday afternoon. It is three hours long and allows you to experience the importance of this material and how it is being offered. Clark and Faye will organise further training later in the year, or you can attend training events in other parishes. If you can only attend the Friday session that is fine. If you can do Friday and Saturday that is great.



TAX RECEIPTS for the year ended 31-3-2024 have been emailed out. Unless requested all Tax Receipt's will be emailed in the first instance. Hard copies printed for those not on the internet.

The Friday Parish Prayer Circle for prayer for yourself or another, please contact Rev'd Joyce Crawford (5794363) or Shirley Scott (571 2450). Please let them know when prayer is no longer needed.



Movie and Discussion Group: You are invited to join a new group at St John's Otumoetai watching 'The Chosen' series 1 episodes 1 – 8, followed by discussion using some study material to look at the series deeper. This FREE group is open to anyone 13 years and over.

When: Every Wednesday night from May 1st - June 19th 7 pm – 9 pm

Where: St Johns Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai, 3110

What to bring: Pen and paper

Refreshments will be provided.

Please contact Merina Foster to register:

Ph: 07 576 9923 or email: communityactivities.otumoetai@waiapu.com

This week in the Parish:

Tuesday 16th April Communion Service 9.30am

Wednesday 17th April Vestry meets Church Lounge 7pm

Sunday 21st April 8.30am & 10am Holy Communion Service

Service Next Week 21st April Easter 4

Liturgy page 476

Psalm 23

Acts 4:5-12

1 John 3:16-24

Gospel: John 10:11-18



I am the Good Shepherd...

Dates to note in your Diary

Vestry meets 17th April 7pm Church Lounge

160th Commemoration of the Battle (60 Bells Service) Monday 29th April 4pm

Safeguarding Training Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th May Church lounge

Vicar John's last service and Parish farewell Sunday 12th May 9.30am

Vicar John's liturgical farewell with Bishop Andrew Sunday 26th May 3pm

Vicar	John Hebenton	021 679 202	john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Ministers	The Congregation		
Parish Administrator	Charmaine McMenamin	578 7916	admin.gatepa@waiapu.com
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366	
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369	
Website	www.stgeorgesgatepa.com		
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican		

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St George's Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu

Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known