



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

3rd May 2020 with

The Rev'd John Hebenton

EASTER 4



There is a Zoom morning tea after the 9.30am Service.

Please join us, using this link code from 10.30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88100362839>

Meeting ID: 881 0036 2839.

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Psalm: 23

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Psalm Response: Glory to God – Creator, Word and Spirit

As God always was, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

First Reading - Acts 2:42-47

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel - John 10:1-10

Sentence

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6.8

Prayer for the Day

Loving Shepherd:

you lead us nowhere you yourself have not been.

Call us by name,

lift us high upon your shoulders,

and bring us to the fold.

Through Jesus Christ our Liberator,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Theme for the Week

This Sunday, like all fourth Sundays of Easter, is Good Shepherd Sunday. This is the one Sunday we are invited to take note of what Kenneth Bailey¹ describes as the ongoing Good Shepherd tradition with scripture. As I have said before this tradition begins with 23rd Psalm which uses the ordinary work of a shepherd to describe how God seeks out the lost sheep, brings them home, protects them, and provides all they need to flourish. Bailey says this basic tradition is reinterpreted again and again, including by Jesus in today's reading from John 10.

This is not just Jesus' reinterpretation. It is also John's. He sets his version within the story of the man born blind who was healed, was then cast out by the Jewish leaders, and then became a disciple and was included in Jesus own community of followers. Everything Jesus says relates back to those very concrete acts. In this version Jesus is the shepherd who lies across the gate at night and risks his own life to protect the sheep and is the door who welcomes in all who seek to join this flock. Jesus says "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."² Life, eternal life, life in abundance is the central theme in John. We are given abundant life. The question then is what does abundant life look like for us living with Covid-19? What does it mean for us to be given everything we need to flourish?

The Acts reading is a glimpse of how that first very diverse group of followers responded to this abundant life.

- How do we respond to abundant life?
- What ways of being church in this time of lock-down we might want to continue when we come out of lock- down to better respond to abundant life?
- Finally, what groups do we see in our communities offering abundant life to those who are struggling; groups like Foodbank, Te Tuinga Whanau and the Acorn Trust. Are we able to join that work in some way as part of our response?

Prayer

Our community - We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Pyes Pa, The Lakes and Merivale. We pray for those whose lives have been badly affected by Covid-19, either through the death of a loved one, ill-health, or changes to employment. We pray for all those seeking to bring healing and hope, particularly health workers and organisations like Te Tuinga Whanau, and Foodbank

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

¹ *The Good Shepherd*. InterVarsity Press, 2014. [ISBN 978-0-8308-4063-2](https://www.ivpress.com/9780830840632).

² John 10:10

Our Church: Today we pray the people of *Clive Co-operating Parish* & their Ministry Support Team members. The people of *Havelock North Parish* & their clergy.

Wider Church: Today we pray for the people of Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa.

NOTICES

Patricia will be back, behind her computer from May 4th.

John however is still working from home. You can contact him on 021679202, or by emailing john.hebenton@waiapu.com.



Tauranga Community Foodbank are in need of donations to help them continue to support those most in need during this time. You can donate online: <https://taurangafoodbank.co.nz/>

WBOP Rapid Response Fund - COVID-19

Funders in the Western Bay of Plenty have come together to establish a new rapid response fund to support community groups who are experiencing increased demand and/or funding shortfall as a result of COVID-19. The funders, who have collectively pooled funds totalling \$600,000 to create the WBOP Rapid Response Fund include [TECT](#), [BayTrust](#), [Acorn Foundation](#) and [Tauranga City Council](#).

If you would like to participate, you can make an online donation either via [credit card](#) (selecting Acorn COVID-19 Rapid Respond Fund), or via [internet banking](#) using the word COVID as your reference.



EMERGENCY APPEAL: Tropical Cyclone Harold and Covid-19

Tropical Cyclone Harold was one of the largest storms recorded and led to 30 deaths and caused catastrophic damage. Anglican Missions is talking with partners here and overseas to assess the extent of damage and to assess needs. They seek our support so that together we can help those who may lack resources to combat this disease or rebuild shattered livelihoods. For information, please check our website <https://angmissions.org.nz/>.

Together in Prayer on Sunday - You are invited to join us for the Sunday service on the Parish Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican/>. You do not need to be a Facebook member to join us

Together in Prayer during the week- You continue to be invited to join in praying at 9.30 each morning in our own places.

Praying with our Province and the Communion. The Archbishops and bishops have asked us all to join them in prayer at 7pm every Sunday while worship services are suspended. Please light a candle and pray with and for others. Bishop Andrew Hedge invites you to join him on Zoom for Night Prayer from 6:50pm onwards, (<https://zoom.us/j/494425649>, Meeting ID: 494 425 649) or to follow on Facebook on Bishop Andrew Hedge's page <https://www.facebook.com/BishopAndrewHedge/>.

For more resources from the Diocese – go to the Facebook page or the Waiapu Diocesan website at <http://www.waiapu.com/>



Tax Receipt Envelopes – due to the Lockdown, these will be emailed out to parishioners when completed



St. Georges Parish Social Night - Join us for a social night on Zoom, from your homes, Friday 8th May at 5pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84376648062>. Meeting ID: 843 7664 8062

This week in the Parish:

Monday 4th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Tuesday 5th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Wednesday 6th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Thursday 7th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Friday 8th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe

Zoom social night – see above

Saturday 9th May

Sunday 10th May online service at <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican/>

Service Next Week 10th May - Easter 5

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Psalm: 31:1-5,15-16

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14



Dates to note in your Diary

Friday 8th May, Social Night on ZOOM

Vicar	Rev'd John Hebenton 021 679202, Email: john.hebenton@waiapu.com
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Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican
Vicars blog	http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/