



# St George's

**Anglican Parish of Gate Pa**

*All who enter here be reconciled*

10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

**LENT 4 Year B**

**MAKE  
LENT  
COUNT**  
PRAY • ACT • GIVE

Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is morning tea after the 10am service followed by our Lenten Study.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

## **Liturgy page 404 NZPB**

**Psalm** 107:1-3, 17-22

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First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

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Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

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Gospel: John 3:14-21

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**Sentence:** The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. *John 3:14,15*

## **Prayer for the Day**

God of Light and Love,  
you come into the world  
not to condemn but to redeem;  
enter our lives, again, with your love,  
bringing new life, eternal and abundant,  
so that we, your servants,  
may show light and love to others.  
For you are alive and reign with the Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **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

As I have said, Lent is inspired by the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness wrestling with and being tested in his identity. Who was he as the “beloved son of God”? How would he live that out? What would he trade it in for? Lent is our time to ask what it means for us to be beloved children of God. (Or as the writer to the Ephesians says, God’s works of art). Asking whose we are using the four words we used to describe Jesus – how do they describe God? Who are we – how do those words apply to us? What is ours to do – how do we live them out? And what gets in the way of knowing and living all that? How do this Sunday’s readings help us in this work?

There are many who find our gospel reading (John 3:14-21) condemning and difficult. You’re safe if you believe, otherwise eternal damnation! But I don’t think that fits with what John is saying in this Gospel. His focus was God’s active love of this world and God’s commitment to redeem and restore it. So let’s put this passage back and have a look.

This is part of the conversation with Nicodemus about the need to be born from above – to embrace a new identity based on God’s compassion and love (Whose are we and who are we?). As we see in this passage, just as the Israelites looked at the image of the serpent to be both reminded them of how their longing to return to slavery had caused this snake plague and provided the way to be healed; so, in John the cross both reminds us of all that separates us from abiding in God’s compassion and love, and acts as the means by which God heals us and invites us back into that relationship. In the cross we are reminded of God’s deep compassion and hear the invitation to redefine our family of origin as beloved children of God.

The Franciscan writer, Richard Rohr OFM, says. “We do not think ourselves into a new way of living, but we live ourselves into a new way of thinking.”

(<https://cac.org/about-cac/missionvision>) Lent is a time to grow new life giving habits that allow us to abide in God’s compassion and to live that compassion for others.

## 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 World:** We pray for those affected by storms, cyclones (Gabrielle on the East Coast), flooding, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, war, famine and conflict.

**Our Church:** The people & clergy of the Papamoa East Anglican Mission & Beachaven Projects.

## Notices



**The AGM is on next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** after the ONE service at 9am. **We need some more Nominations!** Please offer if you would like to serve in this way. AGM Report Booklets are available today. Please take one to read and bring it back with you to the AGM.



**2024 Lenten Study: This is Us – Who we are as Anglicans.**

Join us after the 10am service during Lent for a time of study



**Coffee with the Vicar (Coffee Meet):** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am at Columbus Café in Mitre 10 at Gate Pa.



**Palm fronds needed** to wave on Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Please contact the office if you can give us some.



**Palm Cross Making:** With Reverend Joyce Crawford, in the lounge Saturday 23rd March 1pm. All welcome to come and join in.



**Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March** – If you would like to help organise Palm Sunday, please let John know and he can organise a time to meet and plan.



**Taizé Service on Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm** at St George's. You are invited to a quiet service. We will use the traditional Stations of the Cross and the style of worship from the Taizé Community in France.



**We are now gathering content for the next Parish Web.** If you have never contributed, we would welcome your input. Please send items to the office; Stories, poems, jokes, recipes, gardening tips... Send to [admin.gatepa@waiapu.com](mailto:admin.gatepa@waiapu.com) or drop into office by 10 March.

**2024 Anglican Missions Lenten Appeal:** This year they are supporting projects in **Uganda and The Middle East.** You can donate on the website

[www.anglicanmissions.org.nz](http://www.anglicanmissions.org.nz) or through **Internet Banking** to the Anglican Missions Bank Account: **02-0585-0001796-00** Please write the name of the project you wish to support in the Reference field and then email [accounts@anglicanmissions.org.nz](mailto:accounts@anglicanmissions.org.nz) so they can send you a tax credit receipt.



**Food for the Foodbank:** Non-perishable items are gratefully accepted, thank you.

# WANTED

**Small cardboard boxes and cylinders** - Bonnie is collecting for craft at school. Please save any small boxes, toilet rolls and paper towel cylinders or similar. There is a box in the foyer. Thank you.

**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.

## This week in the Parish:

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** Holy Communion 9.30am

Coffee with the Vicar 10.30am

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** 9am service followed by AGM

No Lenten Study today due to the AGM

## Service Next Week 17<sup>th</sup> March – Lent 5 Passion Sunday

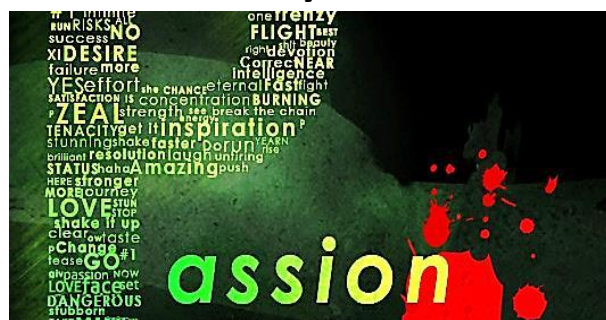
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Psalm 51:1-12

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel: John 12:20-33



## Dates to note in your Diary

- **Coffee with the Vicar** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am
- **AGM** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March after 9am service (only 1 service held)
- **Palm Cross Making:** Church lounge Saturday 23rd March 1pm.
- **Palm Sunday** 24<sup>th</sup> March – Taizé at 7pm
- **Good Friday** 29<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Sunday** 31<sup>st</sup> March

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Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican">https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican</a>		

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

***Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known***