



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

12th May 2024 with The Rev'd John Heberton

EASTER 7 Year B



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is a special morning tea in the church lounge after the 9.30 Service to farewell our Vicar John.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Please turn off your mobile phone during the service.

Liturgy Page 476 NZPB

Psalm 1

NZPB Page 198

First Reading:

Acts 1:1-11

Bible Page 884

Second Reading:

1 John 5:9-13

Bible Page 991

Gospel:

John 17:6-19

Bible Page 879

Sentence: Jesus prayed. "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one". *John 17:11*

Prayer for the Day

O God,

you withdraw from our sight

that you may be known by our love:

help us to enter the cloud where you are hidden,

and to surrender all our certainty

to the darkness of faith

in Jesus Christ. 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

There is a lot happening today. First, happy Mother's Day to all mothers. May you know God's joy and goodness this and every day. And for those for whom this is not a good day, may you know God's peace. I wonder how our experiences of either being a mother, or of our mothers, help us reflect more deeply on the motherhood of God and how we live out God's love each day?

The theme for this Sunday is being on the edge of big change. Thursday was Ascension Day, the day we mark the Ascension of the crucified and risen Christ to the Godhead. Too easily we forget it. We often don't know what to do with it. And yet it invites us to have our minds blown by the fully human, crucified, and risen Jesus, in all his full, created, creaturely, humanity, ascending into the full presence of the Godhead. Our humanity mingles with the divine, just as God's divinity mingled with our humanity in the Incarnation. That leads to big changes for those disciples in how they lived God's love. It offers hope in our time of change and invites us to find God in our everyday life of work, sport, friends, food, music, nature, Let your imaginations run wild with that.

This is also the last Sunday in Easter. And like every Easter 7 we hear part of John 17 and Jesus' last words to his disciples at the final meal and foot washing. Like us, they are right on the edge of profound change. This prayer is set before Jesus' arrest and crucifixion but was written after his resurrection and ascension as words of encouragement to all disciples to live the post resurrection life. It is a whirlpool drawing us deeper into Jesus who offers us the true image of God's love. It is a prayer of hope for all who face big changes.

And today marks an end of my time here in Hori Tapu. 12 1/2 years ago I accepted an invitation from Bishop David Rice to be the next vicar of the Anglican Parish of Gate Pā. What a gift the last 12 years have been as we have sought to live God's love for each other and for the wider community. Like those first disciples in John and Acts we have been sent - continuing to find our place in the story of this whenua and in this community. While May 26 will bring big changes, and a lot of uncertainty, that call to live God's hope, joy, and love will continue. God's story will continue. Let your imaginations run wild with that.

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Oropi, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepoint, 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 clergy & people of Te Puke Parish; The Kauri Centre Te Puke; Growing through Grief Coordinator Claire; NZ police Chaplains in Tauranga & Hawkes Bay.

Our World: We pray for staff & the Board of Anglican Missions & Anglican World Aid (AWA) as they carry out mission, development & humanitarian work across the globe.

Notices

The Rev'd John's last service is today 12th May. We will have one combined communion service at 9.30am followed by a fabulous morning tea together. Could everyone please bring a plate of food to share.



Taizé Service is tonight 12th May, 7pm at St George's. Come and join us for a contemplative service based on the music of the Taizé Community.



Coffee with the Vicar (Coffee Meet): Tuesday 14th May 10.30am at Columbus Café in Mitre 10 at Gate Pa.

John's Liturgical Farewell Service 26th May 3pm. All parishioners are invited to this service where, along with the Bishop, we release John from this parish and from stipendiary ministry. John is really hoping you will all be there. Clergy, friends and colleagues of John's have also been invited to join us.



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

The Roster for May is now available for collection. Please add your name to the Master copy in the Church foyer if you can help out. 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 14th May Holy Communion Service 9.30am

Coffee with the vicar at Columbus Mega Mitre10

Sunday 19th May 8.30am & 10am Holy Communion Services

Service Next Week 20th May Pentecost

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Psalm 104:24-34, 35

Acts 2:1-21

Rom 8:22-27

Gospel: John 15:26-27 16:4-15



Dates to note in your Diary

Pentecost Sunday 19th May - two services as usual with Rev Deb- WEAR RED!

Trinity Sunday 26th May - one service at 9.30am with The Rev'd Debbie

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

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

Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known