



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

19th February 2023 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is morning tea after the 10am service.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Please remember to turn off your phone during the Church Service.

Liturgy 456

Psalm:	119: 33-40	NZPB 340
First Reading:	Lev 19:1-2, 9-18	Bible Page 93
Second Reading:	1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23	Bible Page 927
Gospel:	Matt 5:38-48	Bible Page 786

Sentence: Your Father in heaven makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Matthew 5:45

Prayer for the Day

Bountiful God,
you send sun and rain to the righteous and the unrighteous.
Let your grace fall upon your people,
enable us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us
so that we may truly be your children.
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.

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

This is our last week immersed in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. The sermon itself goes on for 2 more chapters. But we need to stop because Lent is knocking on the door. We continue to listen to Jesus taking part in the ongoing need to reinterpret law to new situations. We listen as he offers what God's intentions in Torah look like in the face of Roman occupation and new social assumptions.

All this is based on the image of the empire of Heaven offered in the Beatitudes; a community where love and reconciliation are the norm - what Jesus will be ushering in for the rest of the gospel. With Lent just around the corner it is good to hear Jesus' invitation to imagine an entirely different world from the one we live in. A world where the measure of who is deemed important, notable, eminent, and influential was not the rich, the powerful, the high born; but the wretched, despised, and the meek.

While what Jesus says today has often been used to encourage people to endure abuse and domestic violence, Jesus offers a way of subversively acting to end violence and declare the superiority of God's reign. He offers a way for those who are oppressed and exploited to help bring in God's purposes for the humanity. It inspired Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

The Greek word translated as perfect more often means "mature, complete, grown up, ripe". Being perfect is not being flawless, but, complete – being all that we might be. That is what the Sermon on the Mount is all about. When we live the kind of generosity, mercy, compassion, love for all that Jesus is talking about we are perfect - complete.

May God's desire for us to grow in compassion, working for a world where all thrive, especially the poor and meek, shape our journey into Lent.

Prayer

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

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. We pray for families and individuals whose lives have been devastated by the loss of their homes and belongings in the floods around Te Ika-a-Maui (the North Island) in the past four weeks. We pray particularly for those affected in the Diocesan Office in Napier.

Wider Church: We pray for the people & clergy of the Greater Hastings Parish; Waiapu Kids St Matthew's Manager; Heretaunga Seniors Manager; Growing through Grief Coordinators, Managers & Administrator.

Our Church: We pray for the Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN) for it's work in development, training and resource sharing of it's international members; American Indians, indigenous Alaskans, Canadians & Hawaiians, Māori, Australian Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.

Notices



Taizé Service - As we enter Lent, you are invited to join us at 7pm, Sunday 19 February. Please invite any others who might enjoy our Taizé worship.



It is now time to return your last year's Palm Crosses for recycling into Ashes. Basket in the foyer for your returns.

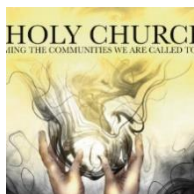


Tuesday 21st February 2023 is Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Party time! at St George's Anglican Church Lounge 5.30pm for drinks, 6pm dinner.

Pancake Party Attendance List is in Foyer for people to sign. **Cost is \$10**, payable to the office or drop into the church plate in an envelope marked "Pancake Party" and your name. This form helps us with catering.



Ash Wednesday 22nd February We will hold an Imposition of Ashes Service at 9.30am and 6.30pm. There is no combined service this year.



Lenten Studies: A HOLY CHURCH – BECOMING THE COMMUNITIES WE ARE CALLED TO BE. This is a six-week bible study on living up to our calling as God's Church. Each chapter focuses on the lessons we can draw from scripture about how we should live as Christian communities. To be held from 26th Feb after the 10am service and morning tea.



Please send your contributions to the office NOW!
Stories, poems, jokes, recipes, photos of happenings, gardening tips...



First Aid Course with The Red Cross on Saturday 11th March 8.30am – 5pm in the Church lounge. \$50 each. Please register with Charmaine in the office. You could save a life! 5 spaces left.



March 12th, after the ONE 9am service. There will be a shared morning tea in the lounge after the service followed by the AGM. Please bring a plate.



The Aotearoa Bike Challenge: If you are registered (at www.lovetoride.net/bop) please remember to log your rides.

Does anyone own a Tupperware Container that they brought food in for Kesson Sharp's funeral? If it's yours, you can collect it from the Office.



The Friday Parish Prayer Circle If you would like prayer for yourself or another, please contact the Rev'd Joyce Crawford (579 4363) or Shirley Scott (571 2450). Please also let them know if prayer is no longer needed.

This week in the Parish:

Sunday 19th Feb (TODAY) 8.30am & 10am Holy Communion Service
Taize service 7pm in the Church

Tuesday 21st Feb 9.30am Communion Service
5.30pm Pancake Party

Wednesday 22nd Feb ASH WEDNESDAY Services at 9.30 am and 6.30 pm.
Vestry meets 7pm Church Lounge

Sunday 26th Feb 8.30am & 10am Holy Communion Service

Service Next Week 26th February 2023 1st Sunday in Lent

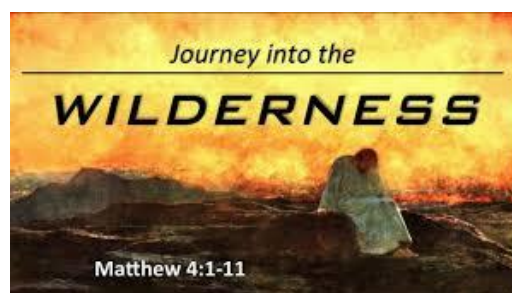
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Psalm: 32

First Reading: Gen 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

Second Reading: Rom 5: 12-19

Gospel: Matt 4: 1-11



Dates To Note in your Diary

- **Lenten Studies:** Start on Sunday 26th Feb in Church Lounge after 10am service
- **AGM:** Sunday 12th March after the 9am service

Vicar	John Hebenton	021 679 202 john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Priest Assistant	Debbie Garrett	021 868 869
Ministers	The Congregation	
Parish Administrator	Charmaine McMenamain	578 7916 admin.gatepa@waiapu.com
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369
Website	https://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