



St George's



Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled.

21st February 2021

LENT 1 Yr B

with **The Rev'd John Hebenton**



There is morning tea in the church lounge after this service. Please join us.
Visitors are very welcome. Please turn off your mobile phones

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Psalm 25:1-10

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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:

Genesis 9:8-17

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Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:18-22

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Gospel:

Mark 1:9-15

Bible Page 812

Sentence: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. *Mark 1.15*

Prayer for the Day

God of Heaven and Earth,

descend on us, we pray,

in this season of Lent;

strengthen us in the face of temptation

so we may proclaim the Good News and reveal your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ Our Redeemer,

who is alive and reigns with you and 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

Ash Wednesday was a surprising day this year. With reminders of our mortality constantly nagging we were invited to wear the mark of ash – a reminder that from dust we come, and to dust we shall return. This evokes a mix of responses for me including wonder and awe. This dust comes from stars. We are made of star dust. And in a gesture of profound love God took this star dust, and breathed life into it to create us. Wow! That ash cross holds a lot of meaning. Lent comes from the early church's time of preparation for those to be baptised at Easter. This was more than learning about the being Christian. It was a time to let go of old ways of seeing themselves and to take on new identities as followers of Christ.

This time was modelled on the story we hear every first Sunday in Lent, of Jesus in the wilderness. This year we hear Mark's bare bones account. Jesus is baptised and hears God declare that he is the beloved son. Then the Spirit casts him out into the wilderness to be tested. No fasting. No details of the testing. Just wild animals, angels serving, and the Great Tester – Satan. This story echoes the foundational story of God liberating the Hebrew people from slavery in an act of profound love and mercy. They spent the next 40 years in the wilderness learning to be the people of this liberating God and being tested in this new identity. Jesus too spends 40 days in the wilderness embracing his identity as the beloved son. This is not a title, it is who he is, founded on a deep relationship of love. He is tested by the powers that seek to oppress, impoverish and destroy humanity and all creation. But Jesus stands firm as the beloved son. Lent is a time to reflect on who we are in God. Do we see ourselves as beloved children? Do we see ourselves as star dust given life by God in a gesture of profound love? What inhibits us building our identity on the love and mercy of God? How might we live in ways that joins God's ongoing work creating a world where all can flourish and thrive?

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, The Lakes, Pyes Pa and Merivale, and particularly for the ministry of Centrepoin, Whanau Aroha, 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: Today we pray for the people of the *Havelock North parish* & their clergy: and *St John's Theological College including the Waiapu Students:*

Our World: Today we pray for the Province of South East Asia, which is made up of the Diocese of Singapore, West Malaysia, Sabah and Kuching.

Notices



Parish Web Articles needed NOW. The next edition of the Web is due out next week so if you have anything to share email Patricia, admin.gatepa@waiapu.com or drop into the office asap.



First Taizé of the New Year – Sunday 21st February at 7pm. We begin Lent with this contemplative service.



Pastoral care meeting. Sunday 28th February, straight after the 9.00am service.



March 14th – AGM Reports in by Sunday 28th February please, so I can collate them into Books, to be out Sunday 7th March 2021.

Lenten Studies 2021. Rebuilding the Ruins: Through Lent with the Prophets.



Starting Sunday 21st February –after the 9.30am service and morning tea. What new world might we see when we listen for God’s invitation to rebuild the ruins? Join us for Lent 2021 as we look at the ruins in our lives, our Church, and our world – and seek God’s direction as we rebuild what has been destroyed. Lent study guides will again be available for sale.



Parish Coffee Meet: Tuesday, Feb 23rd at 10.30am, for our first coffee meet for 2021 at **Le Chat Noir** in Chadwick Rd. Help needed to get there? Call Ainsley to arrange a ride. Everyone is welcome.



Friday 5th March World Day of Prayer Service: “Build on a Strong Foundation” Hosted by St John’s Otumoetai. Start at 9.30am with morning tea, followed at 10.00am with the service in the church.



Anglican Missions 2021 Lenten Appeal. For projects in Egypt, Israel and Melanesia. There are further details on their website under Lenten Appeal 2021. There is also an Appeal for Fiji - Tropical Cyclone Yasa – a category 5 cyclone that lashed the country.

For more information visit <https://angmissions.org.nz/news/tropical-cyclone-yasa--emergency-appeal>. Donations can also be made through their website.



Centrepoint Op Shop – Urgently require volunteers. Call Kate 578 7298 or pop into the store to chat with her about helping. Morning shifts. Good quality merchandise is also required to re-stock the shelves.

This week in the Parish:

- Sunday 21st February – Lenten Studies. starts after morning tea in the Lounge
- Monday 22nd February
- Tuesday 23rd February 9.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Coffee Meet
- Wednesday 24th February – Vestry
and John's birthday.
- Friday 26th February 9.30am Prayer Circle
- Sunday 28th February 8.30am and 9.30am Holy Communion Service

Service Next Week 28th February - Lent 2

One Service at 9.00am

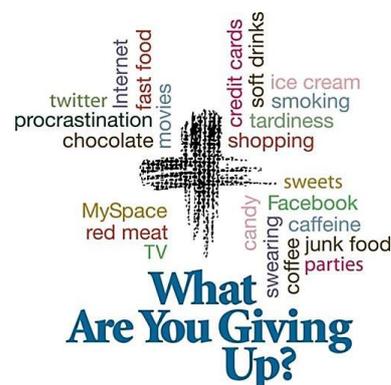
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Psalms 22:23-31

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38 or 9:2-9



Dates to note in your Diary:

- Taize – Sunday, February 21st,
- Parish Coffee Group – Tuesday, 23rd February 10.30am
- Vestry – Wednesday 24th February at 6.30pm
- World Day of Prayer – Friday 5th March 9.30am, St Johns, Otumoetai
- AGM – Sunday 14th March after 9.00am service – 1 combined service
- Easter – 2nd April – 4th April
- Gate Pa Day – 60 Bells Service

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