



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

23rd February 2020 The Rev'd John Heberton tssf
(OS7)



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is morning tea in the church lounge after the 9.30am service.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Service: 456 NZPB

Psalm: 119: 33-40

NZPB 340

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

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

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. In it Jesus offers a theological foundation both for what he has done so far, and what he will say and do 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 they were looking out on, and from what we experience. 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. One of the problems with reading something in a translation from its original language, like the bible, is that words do not always translate easily across languages, and the words chosen do not have the same meaning in the original language as it does for us. This week we have– “perfect.” We are told to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. We often hear and read this as needing to be without fault, flawless, heavenly, divine. And we think “I can’t be that” and we read on thinking this is all out of reach. But in the Greek the word used more often means “mature, complete, grown up, ripe”. Being perfect is not being flawless, but mature, complete – being all that we might be. What does that look like? 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. We are not being asked to be flawless. We are asked to be an image of God’s compassion.

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.



On Wednesday, February the 26th, we invite you to 'wear your heart on your sleeve' by attending an Ash Wednesday Service.

During this service you will receive the sign of the cross - a symbol of our mortality, penitence, and belonging. When we see that sign on other people's foreheads, we are reminded that we belong to the Jesus movement. By receiving the imposition of ashes, we become a public witness to the work of God in our lives and in this world. It is a public display of our loyalty to the One who loves. So, go early, go often, and be seen!”

Prayer

Our community

We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We pray for those who live without hope, and all those who seek to bring your hope. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepont, Whanau Aroha Centre 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 currently.

Our Church: Today we pray for the Hui Amorangi ki Te Tairawhiti: Te Matau-a-Maui Rohe, Tamaki-Tamatea Rohe, Waka o Te Whakapono (Urban Mission).

Wider Church: Today we pray for Central and south Asia.

Notices:



First Taizé of the New Year – Tonight - Sunday 23rd February, 7pm

Come and join us for a quiet contemplative service based on the style and music of the Taizé Community in France

Coffee or Tea



Parish Coffee Meet: The first coffee gets together for 2020 will be at the Whipped Baker (Historic Village) at 10.30am on Tuesday, February 25th. Everyone is very welcome. See you there.



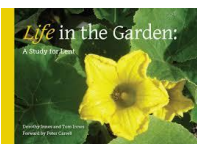
Tuesday 25th February 2020 is Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Party time! at St George's Anglican Church Lounge at **5.30pm for the meal starting at 6pm. \$7.00 per person.** All food & drink supplied. This year we will be having a selection of hot and cold fillings, sweet and savoury, for you to stuff your own pancakes. To help with catering please fill in **The Attendance List**—in the Foyer. The **\$7**, payable to the office or drop into the church plate in an envelope marked “Pancake Party” and your name.



Duty Rosters: March Rosters are out in the church foyer for your collection. They have been emailed to teams.



Ash Wednesday 26th February We will hold our Imposition of Ashes Service at 9.30am on this Wednesday and there will also be a joint Anglican/Roman Catholic Ash Wednesday Service held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Cameron Rd, at **7pm.**



Lenten Studies: Our Lenten Study Group will commence in the Lounge after the 9.30am service on **Sunday 1st March Lent 1. Lent Study Books** available now from office: A donation towards the cost of the book please would be appreciated. **Life: In the Garden:**



World Day of Prayer 2020– March 6th 9.30am The Salvation Army, Cnr Cameron Road and Fifth Avenue, Tauranga. (contact: Violet Stock)



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

This week in the Parish:

Monday 24th Feb
 Tuesday 25th Feb 9.30am Holy Communion
 Coffee Meet at Whipped Baker, 10.30am All welcome
 Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Party 5.30 in Lounge
 Wednesday 26th Feb Ash Wednesday
 Imposition of Ashes Service at 9.30am
 Franciscan Benedictine Eucharist – Noon.
 Thursday 27th Feb
 Friday 28th Feb 9.30am Prayer Group
 Sunday 1st March 8.00am and 9.30am Holy Communion Service

Service Next Week 1st March - Lent 1

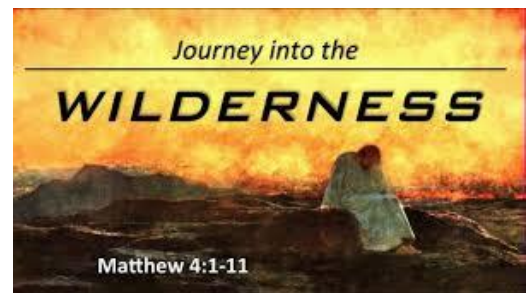
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Psalm: 32

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:

- **Ash Wednesday 26th February 9.30am** Service and joint Anglican/Roman Catholic Service 7pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Cameron Rd
- **Lenten Studies** – 1st March @ St George's
- **World Day of prayer** – 6th March @ Salvation Army Tauranga.

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Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known