



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

26th July 2020

with **Rev'd John Hebenton tssf** OT17

What Will You Pay for the Pearl?

Mt. 13:31-33, 44-52



Please note that today's service at 9.30am will be livestreamed.

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

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Liturgy Service Page: 456 NZPB

Psalm: 105:1-11,45b

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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: Gen 29:15-28

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Second Reading: Rom 8:26-39

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Gospel: Matt 13:31-33, 44-52

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Sentence: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8.38,39*

Prayer for the Day

God of new joy,
nothing can compare to the kingdom of heaven.
Help us to pursue your reign
with all of our strength,
that our happiness will one day be made complete.
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:

In our gospel reading this week from Matthew (13:31-33, 44-52) Jesus is continuing helping people grasp what he means by the “kingdom of heaven”. Just to be clear, he is not talking about heaven. This is not about what happens when we die. This is about this life before we die. It is when what we pray for everytime we pray the Lord’s prayers comes to be; when “God’s will is done on earth as in heaven.” It is when all the dishonesty, rivalry, deceit, dysfunction, misogyny and injustice at work in the story of Laban, Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah (Genesis 29) is replaced with God’s way of justice and generosity. It is, as Paul writes to the Romans, when all that the Spirit of God longs for, groaning with creation in anticipation of, comes to be, and love comes to town (as B.B. King put it).

That is what Jesus is trying to describe using images and similes which confused and perplexed, and invited all who heard to see the world and the reign of God in the world in some very new ways. Stories of seed scattered, weeds sowed amongst a good crop, weedy mustard seeds deliberately sown, yeast hidden in unleavened four, treasure hidden by one and found by another who sells all he has to have it, a merchant seeking and finding fine pearls, and dragnetting. All these contradictory images help us his hearers know where to look for the kingdom, to know when we are experiencing the kingdom happening around us and in us.

I am left wondering where we see ourselves in these stories. Are we the good soil, good seed, weedy seed, weedy mustard seed, yeast hidden, treasure, a fine pearl, or fish of some kind? Or are we the ones sowing, hiding, farming, searching, fishing? And I wonder what images and similes we would use to describe our experience of the reign of God?

Prayer

Our community - We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Pyes Pa, The Lakes and Merivale, especially for those badly affected by Covid-19, either through the death of a loved one, ill-health, or changes to employment. We pray for all those seeking to bring healing and hope, particularly health workers and organisations like Te Tuinga Whanau, and Foodbank.

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. We especially pray for any others you hold in your hearts.

Our Church: Today we pray for *Hospital Chaplains: Seafarer's Chaplain: Police & Fire Chaplain:, St John Chaplains:, RSA, RNZAF, Training ship Chathams Sea Cadets, chaplain to Retired (clergy & spouses, School/University Students & Staff*

Wider Church: Today we pray for the **Province of Southern Africa**. It is the oldest province in Africa, containing 28 dioceses extending beyond the Republic of South Africa and include Mozambique, the Republic of Namibia, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Kingdom of Swaziland, Angola and St Helen.

Notices:

PLEASE REMEMBER...

• you may wish to use a non-contact method to share the peace • that communion is complete in one kind (intinction – dipping of wafer into wine – is not permitted). • do not come to church if you are unwell • good personal hygiene remains highly important: washing your hands frequently, use hand sanitiser, cough into your elbow.



Home communion meeting TODAY after the 8am service.

Pastoral Care Meeting, TODAY here after the 9.30am service.



Parish Coffee Meet – 28th July at 10.30am -

Where: ***Le Chat Noir, Chadwick Road, Greerton***



St George's Day celebration Organisation Meet – August 2nd after 9.30am service. Help required for several roles



St George's Day Lunch "The World on a Plate"

16th August, after the morning service

Join us in a lunch celebrating multiculturalism with international cuisine and beverages. Price: \$15.00 per adult. Under 10's \$8.00.



Taizé:

A Taizé Service of Song, Prayer and Contemplation will be held on **Sunday 9th August at 7.00pm**. A gentle, quiet, candle lit time.



Lemons Required please. Can anyone assist us with our punch base which is depleted. We require about 100 lemons (give or take) to make up enough reserve. Does anyone have a few to spare on their trees? Let Patricia or Ainsley know



Duty Rosters for August! Out in the church foyer for your collection now. If you see a blank space and can assist, please put your name forward. Many hands make light work!



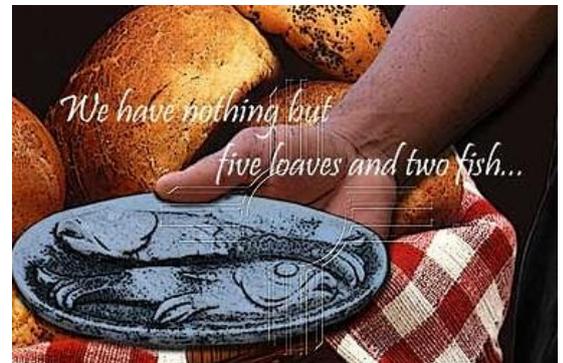
Art Show: 9th and 10th October – A donation towards the purchase of wine for the Gala night will be appreciated.

This week in the Parish:

Monday	27 July	
Tuesday	28 July	9.30am Mid-week Eucharist 10.30am Parish Coffee Meet at Le Chat Noir
Wednesday	29 July	
Thursday	30 July	Tauranga Interfaith Council 4pm
Friday	31 July	9.30am Prayer Circle
Saturday	01 August	
Sunday	02 August	8.00am & 9.30am Holy Eucharist

Service Next Week 2nd August (OS18)

Liturgy page 404
 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
 First Reading: Gen 32:22-31
 Second Reading: Rom 9:1-5
 Gospel: Matt 14:13-21



Dates to note in your Diary:

- **Taize Service Sunday 9th August 7pm**
- **St George’s Day: Sunday 17th August 10am Service only**
- **Blessing of the Animals 4th October**
- **All Souls (All Saints) 1st November**
- **Carol Service 20th December**

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Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican	
Vicars blog	http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/	

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 St George’s Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu
Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known