



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled



4th April 2021

EASTER Sunday 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.

Liturgy Page 476

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

NZPB Page 336

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9 Bible Page 568

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Bible Page 935

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8 Bible Page 829

Sentence: The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Prayer for the Day

Alleluia!

God of new beginnings,

your resurrection brought darkness in to the fullness of your light;

shed that light into the dark places of our lives,

that we may grasp the promise of eternity

and live as your resurrection people,

created, redeemed and empowered through you.

For you are alive and reign with the Father

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 her book *Pastrix*¹, Nadia Bolz-Weber describes Easter as “a story about flesh and dirt and bodies and confusion.... Jesus did not seem very impressive at Easter.... not if Mary Magdalene mistook him for a gardener. Perhaps Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the gardener because Jesus still had the dirt from his tomb under his nails.... Depictions of Christ never show dirt under his nails. He looks more like a wingless angel than a gardener.... My experience however is the God of Easter is a God with dirt under his nails. Resurrection never feels like being made clean and nice and pious like in those easter pictures.

Instead, what I subconsciously know is that God is not interested in making me spiffy. God is interested in making me new. And new is not perfect. In the Easter story itself, new is often messy. New looks like recovering alcoholics, and reconciliation between family members who don't actually deserve it. New looks like every time I admit I am wrong and every time I don't mention it when I am right. New is every fresh start, every act of forgiveness and every moment of letting go of what we thought we couldn't live without and then somehow living without it anyway. New is the thing we never see coming, never even hope for, but ends up being the thing we needed all along. It happens to all of us. God simply keeps bending down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig ourselves through our violence, our lies, our arrogance, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.”²

This year we are listening to Mark's version of the Easter story. It is a little unsettling and a bit disappointing. It is very short! 8 verses! Jesus appears to the women and tells them to go to his brothers and to tell them he has gone ahead to Galilee. And they are terrified. Not excited, relieved, or overjoyed. Terrified into silence. I have so many questions about Marks's version. And that is the point. It invites us to tell our resurrection stories. This is not a story that happened long ago in a far away land. This is a story that happens again and again right where we are. Jesus went ahead to Galilee, to Rome where tradition has Mark writing this gospel, and to Tauranga. The story of God reaching down into the graves we dig ourselves and loving us back to life over and over keeps happening. And after this year that is an Easter message we need to hold on to, and to tell again and again.

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, The Lakes, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepont and Whanau Aroha.

¹ *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* Paperback –2014

² Chapter 17, *ibid.*

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. We especially pray for Barbara Cardon who passed away on Wednesday 31st.

Our Church: Today we pray for the *Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia: General Secretary* – Michael Hughes; The Waiapu Anglican Centre staff; and the Chaplain to Retired Clergy & Spouses: Bruce & Catharine White. and Bill & Wendy Bennett.

Our World: Today we pray for everyone without a place to call home. We pray in particular for the landless and homeless people in Fiji and for the Diocese of Polynesia's Water for All project for 2021.

Notices:



AAW April Meeting: 13th April, 1pm. Our guest speaker is a mystery surprise. We will have the usual Bring and Buy sales table, any contributions gratefully received, raffle.



April Duty Roster – out now in Church foyer and emailed.

We require a Greeter for every service (an important role that we have full instructions for).



Pub Night Friday 16th April, 5pm, at Oasis Bar and Grill, Corner Chadwick and Cameron Roads. All welcome to come to chat and share a drink/meal



Lay Learning Days – April-May 2021; Friday 16 April – Bay of Plenty: Holy Trinity Tauranga or Saturday 17 April BoP: St Barnabas

Ngongotaha. All lay people are warmly invited to come and be part of this day. for ***those who hold a Lay Ministry Licence attendance is a requirement.*** Anyone unable to attend should submit their apologies via the Bishop's PA sandra.gifkins@waiapu.com Sunday 15th November after the 8am service for all involved in this ministry. If you would like to be involved please talk to John



Anglican Missions 2021 Lenten Appeal. Now we are in Holy Week our Lenten Appeal is drawing to an end. Please forward contributions to us over the next couple of months. You can donate through our website. For projects in Egypt, Israel and Melanesia. There are further details on their website and also for the Appeal for Fiji - Tropical Cyclone Yasa – For more information visit <https://angmissions.org.nz/news/tropical-cyclone-yasa--emergency-appeal>. Donations can also be made through their website.



Tauranga Civic Choir Singing Through Time. A fabulous collection of music from 1567-2021. Saturday 10th April 2.30pm St Peter's Cameron Rd. Tickets \$20 from Bonnie.

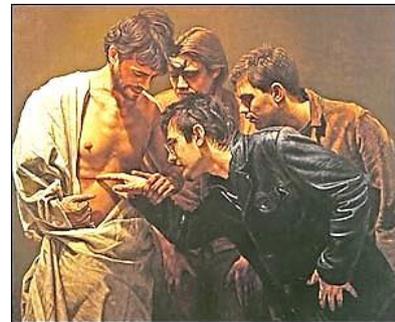
This week in the Parish:

Monday	5 th April	Easter Monday Holiday
Tuesday	6 th April	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday	7 th April	
Thursday	8 th April	
Friday	9 th April	9.30am Prayer Circle
Low Sunday	11th April	8am and 9.30am services.

Service Next Week 11th April

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 Psalm 133
 Acts 4:32-35
 1 John 1:1-2:2
 Gospel: John 20:19-31

Low Sunday



Dates to note in your Diary:

- **AAW April Meeting: 13th April, 1pm.**
- **16th April** – Pub Night
- **29th April** – 60 Bells Service
- **22nd May** – 11am – 2pm St George’s Antiques Roadshow
- **30th May** – Taize
- **27th June** – Harvest Festival
- **25th September** – Greerton Village Blossom Festival Gala Stall

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