



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

5th July 2020 with **The Rev'd John Hebenton OS14**



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

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

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Psalm: 45:10-17

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

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

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| First Reading: | Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 | Bible Page 17 |
| Second Reading: | Romans 7:15-25 | Bible Page 918 |
| Gospel: | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | Bible Page 792 |

Sentence: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.

Matthew 11.28-29

Prayer for the Day

Unpretentious God,
you call us as we are;
and in our weakness you find strength.
Help us so to delight in who we are,
that we are set free
to dream of all that we could yet become;
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 for the Week

In our church calendar today is Refugee Sunday, and Anglican version of World Refugee Day. This was first celebrated on 20 June, 2001 by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to recognise the contributions of forcibly displaced people throughout the world.

The issue of Refugees seems to have lessened for us in New Zealand. We are currently unable to take any refugees as our borders remain shut. But the need around the world continues to grow. Ahead of World Refugee Day on 20 June, the United Nations announced a staggering 79.5 million or one in 97 people displaced, up from 70.8 million the year before. The UN recorded 29.6 million refugees in its 2019 figures. Five countries account for two-thirds of people who have crossed borders to escape violence and persecution: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar. “With no resolution in sight, these conflict zones are likely to push more people from their homes, increasing levels of trauma and suffering. Covid-19 has not stopped conflict and is one more risk they face,” says Pauline McKay, National Director. Some 80 per cent of countries hosting displaced people are facing acute food insecurity, malnutrition, and climate and other disaster risk.

CWS partners are doing everything they can to protect displaced people from Covid-19, hunger, and danger. They are providing personal protective equipment, emergency food supplies and advice on Covid-19. They remind us that giving hospitality to the homeless, the traveller and stranger is at the core of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Today, CWS is asking churches to join in prayer and action for displaced people.

The theme in the readings for this Sunday is discernment – how we make decisions. All our readings invite us to make decisions for life – God’s life. In the Genesis reading we see Rebekah choosing to offer generous hospitality to not only Abraham’s servant but his animals as well. And when she is offered the possibility to go with this stranger to marry a man she has never heard of, let alone met, she sees the possibility of a different life and chooses life in this new place.

Paul continues his ongoing theological examination of our warring motivations, and what prevents us from embracing a different life.

And in Matthew’s Gospel Jesus offers a harsh critique of those who oppose both John and him. He labels these so called worldly wise and powerful people children, too immature and ignorant to see what was happening around them, too filled with self-importance and too busy protecting the world as it is and their place in it. But to those deemed unimportant, ignorant, foolish, unworthy of any great attention, Jesus offers a glimpse of a different world, one that includes a place for them. And some of these like Rebekah say yes.

So what motivates us in our decision making? Is it protecting the world as it is and our place in it? Or have we the courage to glimpse a different world and join God's work bringing that into being. When we apply this to refugees, how might we make decisions for a changed world, where there are no refugees, and where those who are now displaced are offered the same generous hospitality Rebekah offered the servant of Abraham.

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 the people of the *Gate Pa Parish* & their clergy: John Hebenton (Vicar). Retired: Joyce Crawford, Adrienne Malcolmson

Wider Church: Today we pray for the clergy within the Diocese of Polynesia.

NOTICES



Next meeting of AAW is 1.00pm Tuesday 14th July and it is party time with games, prizes, birthday cake and extra special high tea. Our birthday girl, Win, will be manning the bring and buy stall and there will be our usual raffle.



Parish Social Night, at Oasis Bar & Grill **5pm Friday 17th July**. The corner of Cameron Road and Chadwick Road in Greerton.



Home communion meeting Sunday July 26th after the 8am service.

Pastoral Care Meeting, Sunday July 26th, here after the 9.30am service.

St George's Day celebration – August 16th – mark this in your diary now. More information will come out very soon



Today is refugee Sunday. Christian World Service needs our help to continue their work supporting refugee work with their partners around the world.

You can donate at <https://cws.org.nz/rising-refugee-numbers-require-action/>

This week in the Parish:

- Monday** 6th July
- Tuesday** 7th July 9.30am Holy Communion
2pm Rae Wyld's funeral
- Wednesday** 8th July
- Thursday** 9th July
- Friday** 10th July 9.30am Prayer Circle
- Saturday** 11th July
- Sunday** 12th July 8am and 9.30am Service OS14

Service Next Week 12th July OS15

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Psalm 119:105-112

First Reading: Gen 25:19-34

Second Reading: Rom 8:1-11

Gospel: Matt 13:1-9, 18-23



Dates to note in your Diary

Tuesday 14th July – AAW in the Lounge 1pm

Friday 17th July Parish Social Night, at Oasis Bar & Grill **5pm**

Wednesday 22nd July - Vestry Meet 7pm in Lounge – note the change of date

Sunday August 16th St George's Day celebration –

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Parish Website www.stgeorgesgatepa.com

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican>

Vicars blog <http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/>

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Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known