



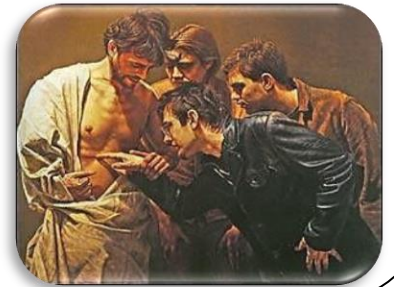
St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

7th April 2024 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

EASTER 2 Low Sunday Year B



Welcome to worship at St. George's,
especially to Odette who is being baptised today and her parents and family.
There is morning tea in the church lounge after the 10am Service.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Please turn off your mobile phone during the service.

Liturgy Page 456 NZPB

Psalm 133

NZPB Page 357

First Reading:

Acts 4:32-35

Bible Page 888

Gospel:

John 20:19-31

Bible Page 883

Sentence: *"Peace be with you", says the Lord. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* John 20:21

Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ,
whose absence leaves us in despair
but whose presence fills us with hope:
breathe on us with your abundant life,
that where we cannot see
we may have courage to believe,
that we may be raised with you,
to whom belong honour and glory,
for ever and 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

The gospel reading for the second Sunday of Easter is always the great story of Thomas. We often call him Doubting Thomas and he gets a lot of negative press. But that might be a little unfair. Let's look at the story again.

A few days earlier (John 11) Jesus had said his friend Lazarus was asleep and that he was returning to Jerusalem. The disciples were shocked and afraid, but "...Thomas, called the Twin,^[b] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11: 16). Then Jesus is arrested, the male disciples scatter, and Jesus is crucified. Three days later Mary Magdalene meets the risen crucified Jesus in the garden and goes to tell the disciples that she has seen the Lord. They respond by hiding behind locked doors. We might call them doubting disciples. Thomas is not with them. Then the risen crucified Jesus joins them and gives them peace. They then find Thomas and tell him they too have seen the Lord. But he is not so easily convinced. He thought he was willing to die with Jesus, but this is a whole different thing. He asks the hard questions – the questions many of us want to ask. Before he recommits himself to this life he wants to be sure. He is honest. He wants what Mary and the other disciples have already had. He wants to see Jesus first. Maybe we should call him Honest Thomas. When he meets the risen crucified Jesus he is again willing to die for him. Thomas the Brave goes the furthest of all the apostles. He leaves the relative safety of the Mediterranean and about 20 years later ends up in South India founding a church that becomes both the Jacobite Indian Orthodox Church that meet here, and the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, among others. Jesus' resurrection changed everything for Thomas, as it did for the first community as described in Acts.

Thomas is the apostle for us. He gives us permission to ask our hard questions. He gives us permission to doubt. He invites us to be as bold. He invites us to be honest and shows us what happens when we are.

Today we welcome Odette Elizabeth as she is baptised into the worldwide church. Our role is to welcome her, help her grow into someone who can be honest in her faith questions, help her meet the crucified and risen Christ, and to be bold in her life choices.

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Oropi, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepont, Whanau Aroha Centre, 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: We pray for the people of the East Coast Parish; for all Messy Churches in Waiapu, for Team Leaders & volunteers.

Our World: We pray for the Anglican Church & people of Papua New Guinea as it faces many challenges to the many communities it ministers to.

Notices

Daylight saving ends this Sunday morning at 2am. So put your clocks BACK 1 hour when you go to bed on Saturday night 😊

EID MEENA BAZAAR Sunday 7th April 5pm to late, Greerton Hall. Join an evening celebration of festivities surrounded by the beauty and traditions of 'our' community; food, culture, clothing, jewellery, henna art, beauty services. Free entry.



Coffee with the Vicar (Coffee Meet): Tuesday 9th April 10.30am at Columbus Café in Mitre 10 at Gate Pa.



Parish Pub Night: Friday 12th April at 5pm at World's End, Fraser Cove shopping centre. All welcome.



Tauranga Civic Choir present Fauré Requiem on Saturday 13th April, 4pm at St. Peter's in the City, Spring St, Tauranga. Tickets \$20 available from Jan or Bonnie.



Battle of Pukehinahina - Gate Pa Day Commemoration- Monday 29th April.

As part of the 160th commemoration we are holding a service at 4pm, remembering those who fought and died here; the consequences for ngā iwi o Tauranga Moana; and to offer prayers/karakia for the future. This year John is offering some reflections. All are encouraged to attend.

Safeguarding Training - All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Some of us are expected to do all three workshops. You do not need to do these all at once.

Level One Part One - May 3 - Friday afternoon - 1.30 to 4.30pm.

Level One Part 2 – May 4 - Saturday morning - 9.30am – 12.30pm

Level Two – May 4 Saturday afternoon - 1.30 to 4.30pm

Level One (Part one and two) is for everyone who offers ministry of any kind. You can space it how you do these. John would encourage everyone to do at least the Friday afternoon. It is three hours long and allows you to experience the importance of this material and how it is being offered. Clark and Faye will organise further training later in the year, or you can attend training events in other parishes. If you can only attend the Friday session that is fine. If you can do Friday and Saturday that is great.

The Friday Parish Prayer Circle for prayer for yourself or another, please contact Rev'd Joyce Crawford (5794363) or Shirley Scott (571 2450). Please let them know when prayer is no longer needed.

This week in the Parish:

Tuesday 9th April Communion Service 9.30am

- Coffee with the Vicar 10.30am

Friday 12th April Pub night 5pm

Sunday 14th April 8.30am & 10am Holy Communion Service

Service Next Week 14th April Easter 3

Liturgy page 456

Psalm 4

Acts 3:12-19

1 John 3:1-7

Gospel: Luke:24: 36b-48



Dates to note in your Diary

Coffee with the Vicar Tuesday 9th April 10.30am

Pub night Friday 12th April 5pm

Vestry meets 17th April 7pm Church Lounge

160th Commemoration of the Battle (60 Bells Service) Monday 29th April 4pm

Safeguarding Training Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th May Church lounge

Vicar John's last service and Parish farewell Sunday 12th May 9.30am

Vicar John's liturgical farewell with Bishop Andrew Sunday 26th May 3pm

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Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366	
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369	
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Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican		

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St George's Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu

Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known