

St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

PEW SHEET 12th April 2020 with The Rev'd John Heberton

EASTER SUNDAY

Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24

NZPB Page 336

Service: On Separate Service sheet

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6

Bible Page 641

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Bible Page 895

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18 Bible Page 811 or 882

Sentence: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Luke 24.34;

Collect for Easter Day

Living God, long ago faithful women
proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.

Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true. Amen

Theme for the Week

This has been a very strange Holy Week. It will be disconcerting to not be able to hold services at St. Georges tomorrow and on Sunday. It is also quite hard trying to write a theme about Easter when I am still trying to get my head around Good Friday.

This year we retell the story of these events amid a Covid-19 lockdown. And that might change how we experience that this year.

Some of us are experiencing the isolation and loneliness that Jesus lived as he walked to the cross. Others like many around the world are joining with him as he prays those famous words of Psalm 22 – "My God, my God, why have you forsaken us!" Some are dying, some are sick, some are mourning those who

died, and some live-in fear of what will come next. Others are surveying the financial ruin of their lives. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken us!” This year the story of crucifixion holds much deeper meaning than ever before. We join with his disciples then and down the centuries who have seen all that gave shape and meaning to their lives at best disrupted, and maybe shattered. We do not know what the future holds. We grieve from what was and look with uncertainty to the future. We are living the Good Friday story. As you live in this story, what do you notice about how you are responding. How does the story of crucifixion help or hinder your response?

Crucifixion and death is not the end. In “Love Wins” Rob Bell talks about how for the Prophets and Jesus heaven was not another place we go to after we die, but the hope of what this world will be like in next age, when God’s will is completely done on earth as in heaven. Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, his defeat of death and all that crushes life. It is about hope and life for us all. In all the resurrection stories the risen Jesus meets his grieving disciples in all their mix of emotions, starting with Mary and the other women. But the story does not stop there. The story goes on, and they are invited into that story

We too are met in all our mix of emotions at the time and the ways we are responding to what is happening in our world now. And we too are invited into the ongoing story.

To live in the hope of the resurrection involves asking what does resurrected life look like in a post Covid-19 world. How has the last few weeks changed our experience and perspective this year?

Bell suggests that living resurrection involves imagining what the world will look like in the coming age (with the help of what the prophets and Jesus taught) and living to bring that to reality now. What does that look like this year in all that we have and are yet to go through?

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

Our Church: Today we pray for the people of the Rotorua Parish & their clergy: Alex Czerwonka (Vicar), Gaelyn Brake, Gary Husband, Calum Gilmour
The people of the West Rotorua Parish & their Ministry Support Team: Liz Buxton, Ann Crawford (p), Gary Gower

Wider Church: Today we pray for women of New Zealand and around the world who provide endless support for overseas mission.

Notices.

Patricia is still working from home during these weeks of lock down. You can ring the parish office and leave a message. The phone system in the office will send the message through immediately. I have had a few messages left, but no one speaking. Or you can email her at admin.gatepa@waiapu.com. Her personal mobile is 021 0292 1498.

If you want to simply call, to talk, I am happy to hear from you.

John is also working from home. You can contact him on 021679202, or by emailing <mailto:john.hebenton@waiapu.com>.

Phone contact - Hopefully everyone has been rung now. If you would like more regular communication, please contact John.

Together in Prayer - Even though we can no longer physically gather somewhere, we can pray together. You are invited to join me in praying at 9.30 each morning in our own places, knowing that although we are apart, we are together in prayer. We are using the Daily Devotions for the day from A New Zealand Prayer Book | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. You can find these starting at p.104 in the Prayer Book, or on the internet at <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/104.html>. Or you can email Patricia for the Service Booklet of Daily Devotions sent out this week. If you have not got one, please email me on and I will send you a pdf. format one to print out or read from, or John can post one out to you.

The Anglican Parish of Gate Pā invites you to join us in your home for the following services on the Parish Facebook Page
- <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican/>

Online Tenebrae - Service of Shadows

Tenebrae is a quiet service hearing the story of betrayal, abandonment and death as we see the shadows lengthen and engage with the story of Good Friday in different ways.

Maundy Thursday - Thursday 9th April – at 7pm

Online Good Friday Service

We cannot gather in our church this Good Friday. Instead you are invited to join us in your home for a quiet service on Facebook Live.

We will offer some space to engage with the story Good Friday.

We will listen to the story, and name all that holds us in death at this time.

Please bring a nail, a hammer and a block of wood, or a dried leaf and something to write on it with.

Online Easter Day Celebration

Not the normal Easter Day service.

Join us for an online service on Facebook Live which might include readings about the Easter story, a hymn or two, and an activity for everyone to think about what Easter means for them.

Please bring a candle ready to be light at the beginning of the service.

We will use the service starting at p. 476 in the prayer book. This can be found at <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/476e>. Or you can email Patricia for the Service Booklet.

Everyone is then invited to morning tea with zoom after the service. email Patricia on St Georges Gate Pa Parish admin.gatepa@waiapu.com for the zoom link.

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(From last week) Praying with our Province. The Archbishops and bishops have asked us all to join them in prayer at 7pm every Sunday that worship services are suspended. Please light a candle in your home and pray with and for others. Pray for your families, your neighbours, our country, and those ill with the virus. Pray for our health professionals and all those on the frontline who are working tirelessly to care for our community. Pray for the lonely and the frightened. Pray for the courage and grace to be a comfort and a light to the world.

In light of this Bishop Andrew Hedge invites you to join him on Zoom each Sunday and Wednesday night for Night Prayer. (Zoom is an online way of holding meetings and teleconferencing). People can feel free to join him in the ZOOM meeting from 6:50pm onwards, or to follow us on Facebook on either the Bishop Andrew Hedge

page <https://www.facebook.com/BishopAndrewHedge/or> the Diocese of Waiapu page (<https://www.facebook.com/Anglican-Diocese-of-Waiapu-1412385835721850/>). Please feel free to circulate to your family and friends. Join Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/494425649>, Meeting ID: 494 425 649
“I roto i te pōuri te mārama e whiti ana; heoi kihai i mau i te pōuri / The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:5

For more information about the COVID-19 Alert Level 4

For updates on council services during COVID-19 Alert Level 4 please visit:

Tauranga City Council: <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/business/health-and-safety/covid-19>

Western Bay of Plenty District

Council: <https://www.westernbay.govt.nz/community/covid-19>

For official advice on essential services, self-isolation, looking after your mental wellbeing, vulnerable communities and other information visit the NZ

Government website -<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you are unable to find what you need, and are not sure who to contact for help, call the free government helpline on 0800 779 997 or on 0800 22 66 57 (8am–1am, 7 days a week).

For more resources from the Diocese – go to the Facebook page or the Waiapu Diocesan website at <http://www.waiapu.com/>

NO Parish Coffee Meet this month but please join us for a Zoom shared morning tea after today’s service.

The link will have been sent out to you.

Battle of Gate Pa Commemorations: I am sure that this will not be a surprise to you, but we are having to at least postpone our commemoration event on April 29th. It has been suggested that we might be able to do it on Sunday June 21st, the anniversary of the Battle of Te Ranga. That is at this point just a suggestion.

Tax Receipt Envelopes – due to the Lockdown, these will be emailed out to parishioners when completed.

This week in the Parish:

Easter Monday 13th April Public Holiday
Tuesday 14th April
Wednesday 15th April
Thursday 16th April
Friday 17th April
Saturday 18th April
LOW Sunday 19th April 9.30am

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican/>

Service Next Week 23rd April LOW SUNDAY
Liturgy page 476
Psalm: 16
First Reading: Acts 2:14,22-32
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Dates to note in your Diary
Zoom morning tea after church on Sunday

Vicar John Hebenton 021 679 202
john.hebentontssf@gmail.com

Ministers The Congregation
Parish Administrator Patricia Price 578 7916/021 0292
1498

admin.gatepa@waiapu.com

Vicar's Warden Clark Houltram 543 2366
People's Warden Faye Mayo 543 3369
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St George's Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu

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