

love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.



Notices from St. Saviours

Lent is much earlier this year and takes place from 14th February until 25 March 2018. Lent is a solemn observance in the Liturgical year of many Christian denominations, lasting for a period of approximately six weeks, leading up to Easter Sunday. In the general Latin-rite and for most Western denominations, Lent is taken to run from Ash Wednesday to Maunday Thursday (Holy Thursday) morning or to Easter Eve.

At St. Saviour's we will have a special Lent series with the Theme: *Just Thinking*. The whole series is designed to expand our intellect and make *Thinking* about and questioning faith issues the normal. We may not find the answers but we will be able to engage with faith, broaden the mind and may even challenge us to think outside the box. So, our Special Series Speakers for Lent 2018:

18th February – 1st Sunday in Lent: Mr. and Mrs. Ian and Lyn McNickle – Teachers and Missionary to Taiwan

25th February – 2nd Sunday in Lent: Rev. Murray Olson – Vicar Parish of St. John's Anglican Church, Te Awamutu

4th March – 3rd Sunday in Lent: Mr. Graham Bull - CEC (Bible in Schools) and CEC School Chaplaincy.

11th March - 4th Sunday in Lent: Mrs. Pamela McCarthy – **Freeset** is a group of social enterprises focused on creating positive employment opportunities for women affected by sex trafficking in West Bengal, **India**.

18th March – 5th Sunday in Lent: Mr. Owen Johnson – Chaplain, Waikeria Prison for Men

25th March – 6th Sunday in Lent or Palm Sunday – Mrs. Georgina Graham, Missionary to the Solomon Islands/Teacher/Counsellor



This week's reading – Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

Next week's readings - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

The First Sunday in Lent: 18 February

Sentence

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Mark 1:15

Collect

**God of Heaven and Earth,
descend on us, we pray,
in this season of Lent;
strengthen us in the face of temptation
so we may proclaim the Good News and reveal your kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ Our Redeemer,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Please Pray for: Heather, Margaret C, Ray Harris and family, Brian S, Phyl and Susan, May H, Matthew, Julia

VICAR: Rev Murray Olson – Office 871-5568 Monday to Friday

PRIEST: Rev Vacion Rae 021 0575 566

PRIEST : Rev Keith Storey – Home 871 5425

PRIEST: Rev Steph Owen – Home phone 871 3400

DEACON: Rev Norris Hall – Home phone 021 0227 1428

PARISH OFFICE Open 9.am till 1pm weekdays Phone 871 5568

Parish Luncheon 18th March

following AGM: Let us celebrate the contribution Murray has made to our Parish over the last 6 years.

Prayer Group will be starting again on Monday 19th February at St John's. We look forward to seeing you there for prayers and fellowship over a cuppa.

World Day of Prayer will be held at Te Awamutu Baptist Church on Friday 2nd March at 10am. Morning Tea and the service will start at 10:30am. Offerings will be used to support projects in Nicaragua, Guyana and New Zealand as well as to contribute towards local and international World Day of Prayer

The Lenten study on Mission that was supposed to start this coming Thursday (The 22nd) is postponed to the following Thursday (1 March) at St. John's starting at 2pm. Sorry about this change.

AGM on 18 March. Could we please have nominations for Vestry Members and People's Warden. These need to be in the office by 9 March. Nomination forms may be collected from the office or from the backs of churches.

Weekly Church Group Meetings

Monday

9:30am Knit and Natter
10-2pm Pirongia Craft Group
5pm Outreach Meal

Tuesday

10am Prayer Group
9:30am Pirongia Walking Group
9-10am Gardening Group (2nd Tue)
10:30 Pirongia Community Cuppa

Wednesday

9:30am Mainly Music *
7pm Pirongia Bible Study (2nd Wed, Jenny Taylor 8259812)

Thursday

9:30am Selwyn Centre

Friday

9:30am Mainly Music *
10am House Group
5:30pm Youth Group *

Sunday

9:30 Pirongia Sunday School

(Meetings with an * are term time only)

Today's Gospel (Mark 1:9-15) is about the Baptism of Jesus and then his subsequent temptation in the wilderness. There are a couple of things that I would like to point out regarding the temptation of Jesus.

The first point relates to the story of the Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. They spent 40 years wandering around in the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land. The reason they spent these 40 years wandering was because they didn't trust God. Jesus on the other hand does not give into temptation and proves that he trusted God. Jesus shows us that he was dependent on God, despite the circumstances, and was also faithful to God's word. Because of this he has become our example in temptation.

The second point is that because Jesus went through this temptation, he understands how we feel when we are tempted. So this is another example of the fact that when we pray to Jesus, we pray to someone who understands us because he has been through the same things that we go through. The last two verses in the song 'What a friend we have in Jesus' state this so well.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Finally, Richard of Chichester (1197 – 3 April 1253) was the Bishop of Chichester. Here is his prayer that I mentioned last week. Richard is supposed to have recited the prayer on his deathbed, surrounded by the clergy of the diocese. I believe it is a good prayer for us to use throughout Lent.

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,

PTO