

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

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



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

Next week's readings - Exodus 20:1-17 1
Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

The Second Sunday in Lent: 25 February

Sentence

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.

Mark 8:34

Collect

**God of Abraham and Sarah,
of Moses and Elijah,
you made a covenant with your people;
draw us into covenant with you,
that we may see your glory,
sing your praises,
and see your kingdom come.
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

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 which was supposed to have started the 22nd is postponed to 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 pew sheets and the Bi-Monthly magazine are now published on the church website, stjohnsteawamutu.wainet.org

Hamilton Civic Choir presents From Hamilton to New York

Where: St John's Church, Te Awamutu and St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

When: Saturday 24th, 2pm at Te Awamutu and 5pm at Cambridge

Tickets: Door sales only - Adults \$25, Senior and Students \$15, School age students free

Weekly Church Group Meetings

Monday

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

Tuesday

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)

Jesus' questions and Peter's answer formed a crucial hook in both Mark Gospel and our own life of faith. Up to this point, Mark has narrated Jesus' travels throughout Galilee in what it seems spontaneous (in human terms) and urgent sequence of events: Jesus healing of all sort of sickness and also dealing with troubled people. Then he told parables, he fed thousands of people in the middle of nowhere. Later, he walked on water. Subsequently, he stood up to the criticism of religious leaders and those in authorities and afterwards, he reached out to the Gentiles which was exceptionally unusual during his time.

What do you think Jesus is up to?

His purpose and his activities were not credible to those around him. The judgement of many of his generation were ranging from suspicion that he was crazy because he was associating with the devil (Mark 3:19b-22) and making friends with the down trodden. Then, Jesus questioned his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter speaking on behalf of his friends responded by saying, "You are the Messiah" (Mark 8:29). These words, "you are the Messiah" put it all in perspective for the Christian faith. Dramatic healings, puzzling parables, incredible miracles and the shocking inclusion of the Gentiles - these all can be seen as characteristic activities of the unpopular Messiah.

But wait! Jesus the scandalous leader of a small group of ordinary people becomes the caring Jesus, full of compassion, the wise teacher, the one who heals and welcomes all. He became the author of new possibilities. He is the same Jesus who is calling you and me in the community of Te Awamutu or wherever we maybe, to ponder the Cross in our Churches and picture Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. He is the suffering Jesus who lays down his life for others; then and only then we can understand who we are in Christ - for Jesus' suffering is a part of God's plan and a paradigm for true discipleship.

E te Atua Manaaki ki a koutou/May God bless you.