

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF MILFORD**  
**St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford**

There is currently no vicar at St Paul's. Until an appointment is made, worship and pastoral care is the responsibility of the Priest-in-charge appointed by the Bishop. The process for the appointment of a new vicar has begun but it will be several months before a new priest is in residence. **Please remember to wear your name tag at church!**

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**Sunday 5th July 2015**

**Refugee Sunday**

Anglicans celebrate **Refugee Sunday** today. It is based on World Refugee Day which marks the founding of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

"A **refugee** is a person who 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

*United Nations Convention on Refugees, 1951*

Like many people we are disturbed by the daily reports of people risking their lives on sea journeys and continued conflict especially in the Middle East. We invite you to join us in prayer and action. Read the article in the monthly magazine by Bishop John Bluck.

**How many Refugees?**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that the number of refugees and people of concern for them is 51.2 million people, the highest number since World War II. In Syria, 6.5 million people are displaced within the country and in Iraq 5.6 million people have fled. Whether from South Sudan or Burundi, they can only be refugees if a country lets them cross the border.

## TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP

### Sentence:

The needy shall not always be forgotten: nor shall the hope of the poor perish for ever. *Psalm 9:18*

### Collect:

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them; and more willing to give than we desire or deserve; in our every need, grant us the first and best of all your gifts, the Spirit who makes us your children. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Lesson** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Book of Samuel, ch.5, verses 1-5, 9-10

**Epistle** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, ch.12, vv.2-10

**Gospel** The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, ch.6, vv.1-13

### Today's Hymns

Introit	437	I cannot tell
[Gradual 9.30]		When I needed a neighbour
Offertory	261	For the healing of the nations
Dismissal	321	Crown him with many crowns

### Worship at 8.00am

Today we begin a month's trial at 8.00. It has been suggested that we should use the NZ Prayer Book at this service, at least occasionally. We will use the service beginning on page 404. That will be more effective than, say, once a month. At the end of the month we can decide on its future use. Nothing is 'set in concrete' and it will be over to the parish and the new vicar to make a longer-term arrangement.

### Patronal Festival

Thanks to all who made our festival, such a great celebration. It was good to have such good numbers from both congregations. Let's try to keep up the momentum. Our congregations throughout May and June were disappointingly small.

## Prayers of the Church

*We use the following prayers for Refugee Sunday followed by those in the NZ Prayer Book, pp.413-14.*

We pray for all refugees forced to leave their homeland and turned away by others. Bring them to a place of safety where they may find warm and welcoming hearts.

*Lord who calmed the storm, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all people who have recently made their home in New Zealand. May they find a warm welcome, particularly in the Church, and may the gifts they have to share flourish fully in this land of the South.

*Lord of the Southern Cross, hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who have lived long in this land. May they grow ever more generous, welcoming and understanding - to welcome the stranger in their midst, and speak out for the oppressed anywhere.

*Lord, defender of the poor, hear our prayer.*

God of Peace

We hear the cry of the needy

People broken by poverty and lack of opportunity

Families divided by war and closed borders

Children who are anxious and frightened

*May our prayers make the longing for peace come closer*

We hear the cry of refugees who have risked everything in a desperate search for safety

Young people who have been sent alone to find hope in a new land

Men who leave with dreams of earning money to keep families alive when there is not enough food.

Mothers who can no longer bear the dangers of life in a war zone.

*May our prayers make the longing for peace come closer*

We hear the cry of people who have seen the brokenness of our world and want change. For those trying to protect men, women and children from the violence that surrounds them;

For reporters showing us glimpses of the life of people braving dangerous seas with no food;

For all of us who have resources we can share —giving what we can and speaking out for people made vulnerable by the injustice in the world.

*May our prayers make the longing for peace come closer*

*Let Peace be the Way. Amen.*

## This Week

<b>Tuesday 7th</b>	10am Holy Communion Park Lane. 9.30am – 12.00 Selwyn Centre. Join us for fun, friendship, discussion, morning tea, quizzes and scrabble.
<b>Wednesday 8th</b>	10.00am Holy Communion. Morning tea.
<b>Thursday 9th</b>	No Mainly Music. School holidays.
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	Sea Sunday. Services 8am and 9.30am.

### Next Sunday

**12 July is observed as Sea Sunday.** This will be a celebration of the sea with lots of nautical music and reflections on the sea, on seafarers and on ships. If you have some nautical items suitable for display and decoration (a small anchor? some nets?) we'd like to hear about it. Just mention to Noel or Mary in the office.

Readings (at both services):

Job 38: 1, 4-11

Acts 27:27-32, 39-44

Mark 4:35-41

### Coming up

July 19 **Bible Sunday**

July 26 **Social Service Sunday** will give us an opportunity to help the City Mission's One Can-Two Can appeal. Details in the monthly magazine.

### American Episcopal Church

Today, the Sunday nearest to Independence Day in the United States, we pray for the Episcopal Church, the American branch of the Anglican Church. They have just elected their first African-American Presiding Bishop, Bishop Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina. He follows Katharine Jefferts Schori, the first woman to hold that office.

Our next garage sale will be on **Saturday 18 July** 8am to 11am. People working on a stall 7.30am start. Help needed **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** 7pm and **Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** 9am for setting up stalls.