

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

**Sunday 16 August 2015**  
**The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**FOLLOWING THE LESSONS WHILE THEY'RE BEING READ**

In days gone by, people came to church with their own prayer books. (The ones in church were really for visitors). Although they knew the service word for word they still followed the text of the service. They followed the readings that were printed in incredibly small type and many read these passages the night before to be better able to understand what the readings were all about. Our use of more modern services and the availability of modern Bible translations has had unintended consequences. Very few people now look at the readings before Sunday and don't follow the text because it means flicking through a large Bible to find them!

Here at St Paul's we're trying to find some ways of making our services more accessible. We have the readings printed out in full and made available to readers but with copies for everyone at the door. It's helpful if readers use the version that's printed - the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). It's designed to be spoken and not just used in private reading. Readers too may find it easier to read the print-out (rather than from a Bible) as the type is bigger and you won't run the risk of reading the wrong passage - that's very easy to do!

By the way we've had several favourable comments about this - and also about the intercessions. It takes up a lot of space in the newsletter but people do seem to appreciate it. Next month we may try having the intercessions and the readings on a separate insert just so we can reclaim the newsletter for other material. A vacancy is a wonderful opportunity to try a few new things!

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## TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP

**Sentence:** Jesus said, 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.'

**Collect:** Everliving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, gave himself as living bread, for the life of the world: give us such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Post-Communion:** Jesus said: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever

### Readings

**Lesson** The Book of Proverbs Chapter 9: verses 1-6

**Epistle** The Letter to the Ephesians Chapter 5: 15-20

**Gospel** The Holy Gospel according to St John Chapter 6: verses 51-58

### Today's Hymns

Introit 639 He who would valiant be

[Gradual (9.30) 633 I the Lord of sea and sky]

Offertory 472 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Dismissal 47 Let all the world in every corner sing

### Today's Intercessions

*To be inserted into the intercessions on pp.413-14*

We pray especially

**For the Church**, especially this parish and in particular for the Nominators as they continue to work on our behalf in the appointment of a priest to serve as our new Vicar.

For the Diocese, especially our Bishops, Ross and Jim, and for preparations for the Diocesan Synod in less than three weeks

For the parishes of Papatoetoe, Otahuhu and Mangere East and for the Tongan and Samoan congregations of the Diocese of Polynesia at Otahuhu and Mangere East respectively.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church in Papua New Guinea

**For this community**, especially those living in Forrest Hill Road, Grenada Avenue, Havelock Avenue.

**For the sick**, especially Robin Norris, Amanda, Hope, Bob, Gabriel, Hilda and Jack Hutchinson

**For those who have died, especially Donald Cortes**

### **A letter brings hope**

The people in the early church were trying hard to live in God's way, to be one family in God. But, just like all families, they sometimes found themselves bickering and fighting.

Paul was feeling frustrated and restless. He had been in prison for some time now, and there was very little he could do every day but sit, pray and write. Paul was not the sitting type. He was the doing type, and not being able to do all the things he wanted to do was really starting to bother him. He wanted to change the world, to spend sunrise to sunset travelling and preaching and serving God, but he couldn't.

He thought a lot about the churches that had formed, and loved hearing reports about how they were growing and continuing the work of Jesus. Many were having a difficult time. In some places the bickering between them and the lack of a clear leader made it nearly impossible to get anything done. These new churches were frustrated, too, and many members had given up altogether. Instead of doing God's work, they spent their days being lazy and unfocused on their work. Many even spent their nights drinking too much, dulling their senses, behaving poorly, and forgetting their work entirely.

A letter would encourage them and remind them to do good things each day, and not waste away their time. *From Seasons in the Spirit*

**NOW READ TODAY'S EPISTLE FROM EPHESIANS**

People see God every day but they just don't recognise him.

*Pearl Bailey*

God is not above, or beneath us, or even just within us. He is ahead. Christian existence is defined by hope and the church is the community of God's tomorrow, eternally discontent with today. *Harvey Cox*

## This Week

<b>Tuesday 18</b>	Selwyn Centre 9.30 to 12.00. Come and join a very supportive group. Cost \$3.00
<b>Wednesday 19</b>	10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea..
<b>Thursday 20</b>	10.00am Mainly Music. Cost \$3.00 per family.
<b>Sunday 23</b>	8.00am Holy Communion. 9.30 Holy Communion and J Team.

## Next Sunday 23 August, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Lesson:** Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

**Epistle:** Ephesians 6: 10-20

**Gospel:** John 6: 56-69

## LAST OPPORTUNITY

### *A Retreat: Open the Doors to Prayer*

The Parish of Takapuna is arranging a one-day retreat at Vaughan Park next Saturday 29 August. They have invited our parishioners to take part. This will be an excellent introduction to prayer - helping to choose the best method(s) of prayer for you. Refer to the white-board at the back of the church or speak to Noel.

## WALKING THE CAMINO

A few weeks ago, in the course of a baptism, I spoke about the famous walk El Camino Santiago de Compostela (it's about 800 kms long!) in the north of Spain which each year attracts thousands of visitors, pilgrims, inquirers. For centuries pilgrims from all over the world have walked the [Camino](#), following the many paths to Santiago de Compostela and the tomb of St James. I recently saw the film, *Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago*, which traces the experience of a number of walkers. An excellent movie with breath-taking views of the countryside and towns. I see it's on at the Bridgeway with final showings on 17<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow) at 8.15pm and 19<sup>th</sup> at 4.10pm. It might pay to book! Our theatre at Howick was full. Actually, a pity we didn't think to organise a parish outing earlier.

Noel

**Thank you:** Maureen Christensen for the gardening you did at the back of the sanctuary wall. It looks extremely tidy. We are very grateful.

## Jim's Jam

He would like more jars. You know the ones.