

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

Sunday 30 August 2015

**The Feast of the Builders of the Church
in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia**

Today

8.00 NZ Prayer Book, p.404

9.30 NZ Prayer Book, p.476 and Benedicite Aotearoa, p.457

Prayer Books

We use the New Zealand Prayer Book at both services today. Following our recent trial and considering what appears to be a consensus, we will use the NZPB at 8.00am except on the first Sunday of the month when 1662 will be used. We hope to have available a more user-friendly version of the NZPB for use at 8.00 as some have experienced problems handling such a large volume.

The Builders of our Church

A number of significant people in the history of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia are remembered individually but the growth of the church in the South Pacific owes a very great deal as well to many, many others, who by their faithful service and enthusiastic support have shaped the church that we have inherited.

The initial shape was given by the members of the Church Missionary Society, whose work among the Maori people laid the foundations of Christianity among many of the tribes. Their work lasted beyond 1840, but faded significantly during the wars of the 1860s. The missionaries were ably assisted in many cases by their wives, who toiled and laboured alongside them. [Next page]

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The Builders of our Church (continued)

The next major development involved those who helped the formation of the church in the new settler colonies. These people were intent on establishing their familiar church in a new land, but without the English connection with the state. A focus as always was *The Book of Common Prayer*, along with the hymns and music of the Church of England.

The next generation was dominated by the work of establishing parishes and churches. Parishioners raised funds to erect buildings, mostly in the familiar style of the nineteenth century Gothic revival, and they provided for the plant and equipment for the many activities of the church. An emerging significant body was the Mothers' Union, in origin a product of the late nineteenth century concern for purity and godliness. In many respects it gave women a status denied them in the decision making processes of the church.

The wars and the depression dominated the early decades of the twentieth century. A growing social concern was reflected in the work of city missions in the major centres. The younger generation of church people benefited from important developments in Bible classes and in youth groups, which were a significant feature of many western countries from the 1920s.

The inclusion of the islands of the South Pacific in the church goes back to Bishop Selwyn's time. Although the Church in Melanesia became a separate province in 1974, the association with the Diocese of Polynesia (founded in 1925, but with a long historical prelude) remains an important component of the church's life.

The characteristic feature of the post-war phase has been a willingness to build a distinctively New Zealand church. The leadership of the church was by then found from among New Zealanders themselves. In the fields of liturgy, social attitudes, and the place of women in the ordained ministry, the Church of the Province became increasingly confident about its own convictions and insights. The charismatic movement from the 1960s onwards made a significant impact.

In the unique nature of New Zealand's race relations, the church has heeded not only the emerging strong voice of the Maori church, but has taken seriously its Polynesian partner and tried to address the issues of cultural diversity. All this is reflected in the church's new name: "The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia".

Thus, the work of individuals and groups has built up the church, and it has developed a distinctive style among the churches of the Anglican Communion.

TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP

Sentence: Call to remembrance, O Lord, your tender care and the unfailing love which you have shown from of old. *Psalm 25:5*

Collect:

Everlasting God, your messengers have carried the good news of Christ to the ends of the earth; grant that we who commemorate the builders of your Church in these islands may know the truth of the gospel in our hearts and build well on the foundations they have laid, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings

Lesson The Book of Sirach, Chapter 44, verses 1-15

Psalm 126

Epistle The First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 3, verses 11-17

Gospel The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, Chapter 5: verses 1-12

Post-Communion:

Come to him, our living stone, come and let yourselves be built as living stones into a spiritual temple. *1 Peter 2:4-6*

Prayer before the Dismissal:

O God of every generation that has been and is yet to be, we praise and thank you for those who have served and shaped your Church beneath the Southern Cross; in our day raise up prophets and visionaries to bring us new insights, new challenges and renewed confidence in you and the gospel of your Son. **Amen.**

Today's Hymns

Introit 581 The church's one foundation

Gradual *** Te Harinui

Offertory 649 Your hand, O God, has guided

Dismissal 636 For all the saints (vv.1-3,6-8)

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of this people: it seemed to us like a dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter: and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations: 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
Great things indeed the Lord has done for us: and therefore we are glad.
Restore again our fortunes O Lord: as when streams refresh the southern dry-lands.
Those who sow in tears: shall reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping with seed for sowing: shall come back in gladness bringing their sheaves with them.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

This Week

September Tuesday 1	Selwyn Centre 9.30am-12noon. Warm, friendly and meet new people. Nice morning tea. Cost \$3.00..
Wednesday 2	10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea..
Thursday 3	10.00am Mainly Music. Cost \$3.00 per family.
	Diocesan Synod Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th
Sunday 6	8.00am Holy Communion. 9.30 Holy Communion and J Team

Next Sunday, 6 September is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Services at 8.00 (old Prayer Book) and 9.30.

Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37.

Synod

The Diocesan Synod convenes this Thursday evening with the opening Synod Eucharist (6.30 at St Mary's on the Thursday). This is always a great occasion with splendid music and well worth attending. Synod runs throughout Friday and as far into the Saturday as is necessary. Synod is open to the public and visitors are welcome. Please pray for Mary Griffiths, Megan Bowden, and Noel Derbyshire who represent this parish.

Today we pray:

For Ross and Jim, our bishops, for the Diocese, the forthcoming diocesan synod, for the Anglican Youth Office and for the Diocesan Office and all who provide administrative support to the Church;

For this parish, and for Grant Robertson, our Vicar-elect,

For the Anglican Communion, and for the churches in the South Pacific in Polynesia, Melanesia, and Papua New Guinea

For this community, especially those living in Linwood Avenue, Lyttleton Avenue, Madison Avenue, Meadowvale Avenue.

For the sick, especially Robin Norris, Robyn Leach, Amanda, Hope, Bob, Gabriel, Hilda and Jack Hutchinson;

For those who have gone before us in the faith and are now at rest, we especially remember Jean Parker who died this week.

In communion with all the saints, especially St Paul, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray in silence for our own needs ...

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in your Son's name; we pray that what we have asked for by faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sirach 44:1-15

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations.

The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning.

There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name for themselves by their valour;

those who gave counsel because they were intelligent;

those who spoke in prophetic oracles;

those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people's lore; they were wise in their words of instruction;

those who composed musical tunes, or put verses in writing;

rich men endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes—

all these were honoured in their generations, and were the pride of their times.

Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise.

But of others there is no memory;

they have perished as though they had never existed;

they have become as though they had never been born, they and their children after them.

But these also were godly men, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;

their wealth will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance with their children's children.

Their descendants stand by the covenants;

their children also, for their sake.

Their offspring will continue for ever, and their glory will never be blotted out.

Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on generation after generation.

The assembly declares their wisdom, and the congregation proclaims their praise.

1 Corinthians 3:11-17

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Today's Intercessions

We give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith, and have built the church in these islands.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We remember the missionaries, Samuel Marsden, Henry and Marianne Williams, Octavius Hadfield, and others who brought the Gospel to the Maori people.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We give thanks for George Augustus Selwyn, our first Bishop, and Sarah his wife, who laid the foundations for the church in this land and laboured tirelessly, walking great distances and sailing long journeys.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We remember William Cowie, first Bishop of Auckland, and Eliza Jane his wife, who served this diocese for thirty years, built up the parishes and set up homes to help those in need.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We give thanks for the leaders of the church among the Maori people, faithful bishops, clergy and lay people, who struggled for recognition and for a rightful place in the structures of the Church.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We remember John Coleridge Patteson, first Bishop of Melanesia, who gave his life for the sake of your Kingdom, and give thanks for the church in the South Pacific.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We give thanks for the social services and practical means of showing our concern and for those like Jasper Calder, the first City Missioner, who pioneered this work.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We give thanks for the religious communities, the Society of St Francis and Community of the Sacred Name who, through their vows, dedicate their lives to your Church and sustain it in prayer.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We give thanks for faithful bishops, clergy and lay people, who have served your Church and especially in this parish.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

TE HARINUI

Not on a snowy night by star or candlelight
Nor by an angel band there came to our dear land
Te Harinui, Te Harinui, Te Hari-nu-i
Glad tidings of great joy

But on a summer day within a quiet bay
The Maori people heard the great and glorious word
The people gathered round upon the grassy ground
And heard the preacher say I bring to you this day
Now in this blessed land, united heart and hand
We praise the glorious birth and sing to all the earth