

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

Sunday 6 September 2015
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today

8.00 Book of Common Prayer

9.30 NZ Prayer Book, p.404

Synod

The Diocesan Synod concluded yesterday. There will be a report-back some Sunday in the near future. Not today - our reps are in recovery mode!

TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP

Sentence: So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.
James 2:13

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, increase our faith, hope, and love, and, that we may receive all you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Lesson The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 35, verses 4-7a

Epistle The Letter of St James, Chapter 2, verses 1-10, 14-17

Gospel The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, Chapter 7, verses 24-37

Post-Communion:

He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.
Mark 7:37

Today's Hymns

Introit 261 for the healing of the nations

Gradual 108 Give thanks with a grateful heart

Offertory 575 in Christ there is no east or west

Dismissal 669 Lord, be my vision

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Today we remember Charles Fox, Missionary in Melanesia

Charles Elliot Fox was one of the most outstanding members of the Melanesian Mission. A missionary, historian and anthropologist, he served the Anglican Church in Melanesia for over seventy years of his very long life. He died aged 99.

He was born in England in 1878 and came to New Zealand with his parents in 1884 when his father became Vicar of Gisborne. Charles attended high school in Napier. While there he played cricket against a team from Norfolk Island, brought to New Zealand by Bishop Cecil Wilson of Melanesia. Fox conceived the idea of joining the Melanesian Mission, and did so in 1902. In the meantime he had completed a degree in geology in Auckland.

Fox had never enjoyed robust health, so initially he was sent not to Melanesia but to St Barnabas' College, Norfolk Island. He was ordained by Bishop Wilson in 1903, and in 1911 finally gained permission to go to the Solomon Islands. He was sent to set up a boys' school at Pamua on San Cristobal. From then on he lived in the Solomon Islands, apart from brief intervals, till his return to New Zealand in 1973.

He served in various parts of the Solomon Islands and in various capacities: as district missionary, headmaster, labourer, and for eleven years (1932-1943) as the only European member of the Melanesian Brotherhood. At an earlier date he had already demonstrated his sense of identity with the Melanesian people by exchanging names and situation with a young chief of the Arosi tribe on San Cristobal. During the Second World War he was a coast-watcher, successfully evading capture by the Japanese through his intimate knowledge of the terrain and the loyalty of the Melanesian people.

He was an expert in Melanesian languages, publishing several dictionaries. He published a pioneer study of the people and culture of San Cristobal, *The Threshold of the Pacific*, for which he was awarded a D.Litt. in 1922. He also translated the Bible and the *Book of Common Prayer*. He wrote a history of the Melanesian Mission, *Lord of the Southern Isles*, and a charming account of his own work, *Kakamora*. He was awarded the MBE in 1952 and the CBE in 1974. In 1932 he was asked to become the seventh Bishop of Melanesia, but that invitation he declined. By the time he left the Solomon Islands in 1973, he had become a legend in his own lifetime. So closely had he identified with the work of the mission, that he regarded himself as a Melanesian. Even in his final years in New Zealand, he maintained a voluminous correspondence with the people he had worked with for so long. For them he was a man of immense mana, both for his acceptance of Melanesian culture and

customs as an entirely adequate vehicle for the gospel, and because he sought no power for himself and was entirely free of paternalism. Fox died on 28 October 1977. At his own request his funeral service was held in Honiara, and he was buried at Tabalia, the home of the Melanesian Brotherhood.

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure,

saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Today we pray:

For Ross and Jim, our bishops, giving thanks for the synod which concluded yesterday. For the parishes of Onehunga, Royal Oak, and Hillsborough.

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

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

For this community, especially those living in Merrifield Avenue, Newport Place, Nile Road, Pax Avenue.

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

For those who have gone before us in the faith and are now at rest, {especially ...}

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.**

This Week

Sunday 6	8.00am Holy Communion. 9.30 Holy Communion and J Team.
Tuesday 8	Selwyn Centre 9.30 to 12.00. Come and join a very supportive group. Cost \$3.00
Wednesday 9	10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea.
Thursday 10	10.00am Mainly Music. Cost \$3.00 per family.
Sunday 13	8.00am Holy Communion. 9.30 Holy Communion and J Team.

Next Sunday, 13 September is the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Services at 8.00 and 9.30, both using the NZPB.

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

Jim would like some oranges if you have any to spare. He would like to make another batch of lemon marmalade which has oranges in it.