

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

Sunday 27 September 2015
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today

8.00 NZ Prayer Book, p.404

9.30 NZ Prayer Book, p.404

TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP

Sentence

Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. *Mark 9:50*

Collect

O God, your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his name will not lose their reward: open our eyes to see those who are in need, and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards, so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children, we may labour for the treasure that endures; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Psalm 19:7-14 (NZPB, p. 216)

Epistle James 5:13-20

Gospel Mark 9:38-50

Post-Communion: Are any among you sick? Call for the elders of the church to pray over them. *James 5:13*

Today's Hymns

Introit	497	Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Gradual	[509	Lord of all hopefulness]
Offertory	317	At the name of Jesus
Dismissal	24	All hail the power of Jesus' name

SYNOD

A report on the recent Diocesan Synod is available. Mary Griffiths (at 8.00) and Megan Bowden (at 9.30) will lead discussion on this at the end of each service.

Priest-in-charge: The Revd Dr Noel Derbyshire
Home: 537 3407 noelandjudith@xtra.co.nz
Parish Office: 486 0668 stpaulsmilford@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.stpaulsmilford.co.nz

TODAY WE PRAY:

Blessed are you eternal God

To be praised and glorified for ever.

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church, and especially for others in this community who follow Christ.

May we all be one that the world may believe.

We pray for the Church, for the bishops, clergy and people of the Church of Melanesia. For Grant Robertson, our Vicar-elect. For Ross and Jim, our bishops. For Anglican schools, especially King's College, King's School, Diocesan School, and Kristin School; for the students, staff and chaplains. For our sister parish in England, St Mary the Virgin, Ringmer, and for Beth Woodgate, their new Vicar. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

That the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We give thanks for the life of Robin Norris, faithful member of this parish, remembered also in Ringmer, and for all who have died.

Father, into your hands we commend them.

We praise you for your saints, especially the Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, whose lives were taken in 2003, and for all who have entered your eternal glory.

May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble, especially for Robyn Lynch, Briar Garraway, Amanda, Hope, Bob, Gabriel, Hilda Hutchinson.

In your presence may they find strength.

Look with your kindness on our homes and families and especially for those living in Seine Road, Trevone Place, Alma Road, Argyle Terrace.

Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our world community, for all refugees, especially those from Syria seeking a safe haven.

Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world,

Guide us and all people in the ways of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.

Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

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.

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

ROBIN NORRIS

Robin, one of our most devoted parishioners, passed away last Sunday. His funeral is tomorrow at 12 noon. We have been in touch with Ringmer, his other parish, in England and they are remembering him too. By coincidence their vestry also met on Tuesday. What's more, they too have a new vicar. There will be a tribute to him in the next magazine. May Robin rest in peace and rise in glory.

This Week

Monday 28	12.00 Funeral: Robin Norris
Tuesday 29	9.30 to 12.00 Selwyn Centre. Join in good conversation, excellent morning teas, games. Cost \$3.00.
Wednesday 30	St Michael and All Angels (transferred from Tuesday) 10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea.
Thursday 24	Mainly Music not this week: school holidays.

NEXT SUNDAY, 4 October

We will observe as our Feast of Dedication.

Services at 8.00 (Book of Common Prayer) and 9.30 (NZPB).

Readings: 1 Kings 8:22-30; Ps 84; 1 Peter 2:1-10; John 2:13-22.

FOOD BASKET

Please remember that gifts of food are especially welcome. You may bring food along each Sunday for the City Mission. They have an endless demand for food and every item helps. A basket is placed near the font.

COMMON LIFE MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The Bishops and the recent Synod have asked us to encourage people to register for the Common Life (our whole church) missions conference. It's to be held in Auckland at King's College, Otahuhu between **6-9 October**. See notices in the foyer or speak urgently to the clergy or download: <http://clmc2015.org.nz/>

PARISH FAIR

A reminder that this will be on **Saturday 10 October**. Please note that there will be no clothes on sale. They can be purchased at the Op Shop.

BLESSING OF PETS AND THANKSGIVING OF ANIMALS: CHANGE OF DATE

Last week we indicated that this would be on 4 October at the 9.30 service. However, we should have realised that that is in the middle of school holidays. For that reason, we will shift it to **18 October**, which is also Youth Sunday in the Anglican Church so that should work well. Please ask your pet to make the necessary change in their diary.

INSTITUTION OF NEW VICAR

The Institution and Induction of our new Vicar, the Revd Grant Robertson, will take place at St Paul's on **Wednesday 2 December** at 7.30pm. Mark in your diary now!

ANGLICAN TAONGA

Copies of our highly regarded national Anglican magazine are available in the foyer. A great way to learn about our church. What's more, it's free.

PARISH OFFICE

Thanks to David Oswald for the great work he has done transforming the office and thus providing a better work space for Mary.

The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003

In 2003 the Solomon Islands experienced a period of civil unrest. Members of the Melanesian Brotherhood became caught up in this and eventually seven brothers were killed. One of the leading guerrilla rebels was Harold Keke, who led the Guadalcanal Liberation Army. Early in 2003 Brother Nathaniel Sado went to see Keke. He knew him and called him a friend but that trust was misplaced. He was the first to die, being tortured and beaten to death. Six other Brothers set off from Honiara to find out what had happened to him, following up reports that he had been murdered by Keke and his men. They also wanted to bring his body back to Tabalia (the Mother House of the Melanesian Brotherhood) for burial. The six Brothers did not return. For over three months the community waited day and night, hoping and praying for their safety. Making contact with Keke was difficult. All the reports and news they received were that the Brothers were being kept hostage but were alive and well. The situation became even worse when five Novices and two Brothers in the neighbouring district were also taken hostage. Eventually they were released - Keke seemed in a reconciliatory mood. The Melanesian Brotherhood were thankful to get the Novices back safely. However, during their captivity they had seen no sign of the original six Brothers. Then their worst fears were confirmed. The Police Commissioner informed the Brotherhood that Keke had admitted that all six were dead.

Robin Lindsay, the assistant head of the Brotherhood, had great leadership skills. He was popular wherever he went. He was brilliant at resolving conflicts and helping everyone feel valued and part of the community. Francis Tofi was a Brother who was prepared to speak out, to condemn violence and the use of weapons and to protect the lives of others even at great personal danger. Alfred Hill was a young, quiet and humble brother. He trained in malaria research and qualified to read blood slides at the local clinic. Ini Paratabatu was a brilliant actor and a key member of the outreach dramas. He spoke out against any injustice, even confronting the police when he believed their methods were unjust. Patteson Gatu had only recently become a Brother but was full of joy. Tony Sirihi had no close parental care when he was young and found in the Brotherhood a real family and home. From a shy novice he developed into a stocky and bold brother but never lost his simplicity. Throughout the tensions he continued to help the disarmament process. The funerals of the seven Brothers were very moving. Their bodies were first taken to the Cathedral in Honiara where the coffins were blessed. The Government had declared a Day of National Mourning and they

were given a State Funeral. The procession then left for the Brotherhood headquarters at Tabalia - a journey of about an hour, which became two hours because of the thousands of people lining the streets virtually the whole distance, many throwing flowers onto the coffins as they passed. The full community of Brothers and Novices, dressed in their white 'uniforms', stood at the bottom of the hill which leads to the Motherhouse at Tabalia. Behind them a crowd estimated at over 11,000 people waited for the arrival home of their beloved Brothers.

As one by one the coffins were unloaded from three trucks, the wailing of the crowd grew louder and extreme. People broke ranks and pushed forward, pouring out their sorrow hysterically. Yet the brothers held solid, with dignity and inner strength. One by one they took up the coffins, and a huge procession began to move up the hill to St. Mark's Chapel as a wooden drum beat. In front of each coffin was a banner: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God," and the name of the Brother who had given his life in the cause of peace. The Chapel was packed, and outside a sea of 20,000 people stretched out in all directions. Brothers respectfully placed the Brotherhood medals and sashes on the coffins, and then the families came forward with wreaths and flowers. As they moved towards the Brotherhood graveyard there was another great surge of grief among the huge crowd. Yet again the Brotherhood, like bulwarks against the ocean of loss, held the chaos of grief together, giving it form and structure and dignity. The bodies of six of the Melanesian Brothers were buried at the Motherhouse of the Melanesian Brotherhood on the 24 October but Robin Lindsay's grave remained open and waiting until he was buried there on 5 November. There could be no closure for the Brotherhood until he, too, was laid to rest. The family needed time before they could resolve that Robin was first and foremost a Brother and belonged to God and so should rest with those who died with him, and at the heart of the community he served. At that funeral, perhaps the most powerful sign of all was when the Brothers and Novices gathered to kneel around the coffin to show their last respects, linked to the coffin and to one another by out-stretched hands, by the song they sang and their combined tears. Then together as one community they slowly lifted the coffin onto the shoulders of six of their Brothers to lead him to his final resting place where his relatives sang in his mother tongue. As a Memorial to the Martyr Brothers, eight large silver chalices and patens were bought. The chalices and one paten were engraved with the names of all the Martyr Brothers. The remaining seven patens bore the name of one Brother. The family of each Martyr Brother was presented with a chalice and the paten

bearing the name of their own Brother, to be presented to their local parish church. The eighth chalice and paten was kept in St. Mark's Chapel at the Brotherhood Headquarters. The Martyr Brothers are commemorated on 24 April.