

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

**Sunday 18 October 2015**

**Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation  
Pet Sunday: Blessing of the Animals**

**TODAY'S SERVICES**

8.00 NZ Prayer Book, p.404: *Thanksgiving of the People of God*

9.30 NZ Prayer Book, p.456: *Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption*

**TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP**

**Sentence:** Let the whole creation bless the Lord; praise and exalt our God for ever.

**Collect:** Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen**

**Readings:**

**Lesson** Deuteronomy 8:6-10

**Psalm** 107:33-43

**Epistle** 1 Corinthians 3:6-9a

**Gospel** Matthew 6:19-24

**Post-Communion Prayer:** Holy Jesus, give us something of Francis' simplicity, something of his recklessness, something of his obedience. Give us the courage to understand what you say and to do it. **Amen.**

**Today's Hymns**

**Introit** 23 All creatures of our God and King (omit vv.5-6)

**During Blessing of Pets (9.30)** [691 Make me a channel of your peace]

**Offertory** 298 For the beauty of the earth

**Dismissal** 294 All things bright and beautiful

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## ***Francis of Assisi, Friar***

Born in 1181, Francis was the son of a successful cloth merchant of Assisi. He was christened John but always known as Francis (the Frenchman) because his mother was from Provence. As a young man, he led an active social life. He also saw war service and was a prisoner of war but, on his release, turned his back on warfare. His social life continued; but now his attitude to life became more serious.

As he felt his way towards his new vocation, he knelt before a crucifix in the half-ruined Church of San Damiano and prayed. The crucifix seemed to speak to him, "Francis, go and rebuild my church, which you see is in ruins." With typical compulsiveness he sold some of his father's goods to pay for repairs, and went to live with the local priest. A long and bitter altercation with his father culminated in the famous scene before the Bishop of Assisi. Francis renounced his father and all his wealth, even to the clothes he was then wearing. Dressed in a grey-brown peasant's smock that the bishop gave him and with a piece of rope for a belt, Francis began a life of poverty, preaching the love of Christ.

His life after his conversion is inextricably entangled with the development of the Order of Friars Minor, which he almost unwillingly founded. He was living by himself at first, but was joined by a small group of disciples. They lived 3kms from Assisi, near a leper colony. A simple rule was approved in 1210 and the order grew beyond all expectations. It soon outgrew the carefree, unbelievably poverty-laden beginnings. The resultant tensions between simple poverty and the demands of a large organisation were part of the cross Francis had to bear. He accepted, reluctantly, a more formal rule in 1223, which made the order a part of the wider church. He resigned as minister-general in 1220. He knew that he lacked the administrative skills to run it and so his place was taken by Brother Elias.

Alongside the active preaching there was a strong strand of contemplative devotion in Franciscan spirituality. In Francis' own life this reached a climax in a vision of his crucified Lord and the marking of his body with the very wounds of Christ (stigmata which he bore until his death). His preaching tours included one to a crusaders' camp in Egypt, which left him totally disillusioned about the crusades. He was never a robust man, and the preaching tours, his austerities, and the horrific medical practices of the period all weakened his health. In 1226 he was carried home to die. He was buried in the Church of San Giorgio, Assisi, but his relics were transferred in 1230 to the new basilica built by Brother Elias. There they remain. He was canonised only two years after his death. Much loved, but misunderstood, Francis is today chiefly thought of as an animal and nature lover, but this is much more to him. His rejection of material possessions and security, his deep love of the church of his day, his missionary zeal, his deep devotion to the passion of his master, whom he strove so closely to follow; all these are as much St Francis as the sermon to the birds and the wolf of Gubbio.

## The Anglican Franciscans in New Zealand

It all began shortly after World War I. The [Rev Douglas Downes](#), an economics don at Oxford, and a few friends expressed their sympathy and concern for victims of the depression practically by going out onto the roads and sharing the life of the homeless men and boys, looking for work from town to town. A Dorset landowner, Lord Sandwich, offered a small farm property, and here the group of friends was able to offer shelter to the exhausted wayfarers and others in temporary need of help.

Another small group (led by [Father Algy](#)) who had a clearer idea of forming a religious order joined Brother Douglas (as he liked to be called). Gradually the little community took shape, modelling itself more consciously in the Franciscan tradition of prayer and study, as well as working with the poor. It started to look like a religious order in formal sense, with habits, a chapel and regular worship. The Society of Saint Francis came into being. More men joined and were clothed as novices.

Before long, invitations came to establish centres in other places and at the start of World War II, there were houses in south London and Cambridge. After the war other centres were opened in Britain. Establishments overseas followed and the Society now has friaries in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Other communities were made in Germany, Italy, Africa and the West Indies. A brother in Korea is assisting the formation of an indigenous Korean Franciscan Brotherhood.

It was in 1958 that the then Bishop of New Guinea, Philip Strong, persuaded the brothers to run a parish and school in a poor district of Port Moresby. It was this that brought us to the South Pacific. When Bishop Strong became Archbishop of Brisbane he was again successful. The Brookfield Centre for Christian Spirituality is still remembered by many as “the Friary”, and though we are no longer there, we still have a Brisbane Friary at St Phillip’s rectory, Annerley.

We arrived in New Zealand in 1969, where we ran the Auckland City Mission in Greys Avenue. From there we went to the parish in Glen Innes; a mixed multicultural area. 1980 saw us move to Parnell adjacent to the cathedral where we became involved in inner-city ministry. In 1998 the friars moved to Long Bay, on Auckland’s North Shore, to establish and run the diocesan retreat centre, Vaughan Park.

Late in 2001 we moved to the Waikato Diocese where we are now at Te Ara Hou, a village of social service agencies on the outskirts of Hamilton city; working in close liaison with Anglican Action. Our friary is called the Friary of the Divine Compassion.

## **READINGS AT 8.00am**

### **Deuteronomy 8:6-10**

Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

### **1 Corinthians 3:6-9a**

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

### **Matthew 6:19-24**

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

## **TODAY IN OUR PRAYERS:**

### ***We pray in particular for***

The Church in this Parish and for Grant Robertson, our Vicar-elect.

The Diocese, especially for Ross and Jim, our Bishops.

The ministry units of Thames, Hauraki Plains, Coromandel, Mercury Bay, and Tairua-Pauanui

The Society of St Francis

The sick, especially Robyn Lynch, Briar Garraway, Amanda, Hope, Bob, Gabriel, Hilda Hutchinson.

This community and especially those living in Inga Road, Keldale Place, Kitchener Road, Marsh Avenue.

## **BLESSING OF PETS AT 9.30**

*This replaces pages 460-66*

### **Collect for St. Francis**

Almighty and loving God, give to your people the strength to put away all evil things; so that, following the way of Francis, we may because of our love of you delight in your whole creation with great joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Hymn 691**      *Make me a channel of your peace*

### **The Creation Story**

*(Abbreviated from Genesis 1:1-34)*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and a great dimness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

On the first day, God created light and darkness.

On the second day, God created the sky above and the waters below.

On the third day, God formed the land and called it Earth, and gathered the water and called it Sea. God blessed the earth with vegetation and food.

On the fourth day, God separated the day from the night, creating the sun, the moon, and the stars.

On the fifth day, God brought forth swarms of living creatures in the air, in the water, and on the land, and God bid them to be fruitful and multiply.

On the sixth day, God created humankind in God's image, giving them dominion over the animals. God blessed them and bid them to be fruitful and multiply.

On the seventh day, God saw that everything that God had made was very good and God rested and blessed the seventh day and made it sacred.

### **The Gospel (Standing)**

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:25-30)

*People:* **Praise and glory to God.**

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, God of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, God, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed

over to me by my Creator; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal God. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

*Reader:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

*People:* **Praise to Christ the Word.**

## **Video clip**

### **The Blessing of each Pet** (*individually*)

The blessing is usually done with the sprinkling of water over the animal and the owner. "N., (*name of animal, i.e. "Smokey", not cat/dog*) may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May you and (*the name of the "owner"*) enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you."

### **The Blessing** (*as a group*)

May you be blessed in the Name God, the Creator, Redeemer and of the Sustainer. May you and your animals enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you. Amen.

### **The Blessing Prayer**

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings!

To you alone do all things belong.

Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world.

May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets.

Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with.

We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also.

Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy.

O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever.

This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.

## **Address**

## **The Prayers**

*Leader:*

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

*All:*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

*All:*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

*All:*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

*All:*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

*All:*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

*All:*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      That each pet here may be treasured with care;

*All:*           **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      That we may love and honour all your works, O God;

*All:*           **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader:*      That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

*All:*           **To the honour and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.**

***Brief intercessions follow***

## **The Closing Prayer** *(said together)*

Almighty God, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong.

We thank you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world.

May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets.

We thank you for making us so happy to have our pets and to play with them.

We ask you, Lord, that we may always be good to our pets, so that they too may be happy.

Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy.

O God, your world is wonderful.

May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. **Amen.**

*The service resumes at the foot of page 466*

## **This Week**

<b>Tuesday 20</b>	Selwyn Centre 9.30 to 12.00. Join in good conversation, friendship and fun. Cost \$3.00.
<b>Wednesday 21</b>	10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea.
<b>Thursday 22</b>	10.00am Mainly Music this week

**NEXT SUNDAY, 25 October** is the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Services at 8.00 and 9.30 (both NZPB).

### **Readings:**

Jeremiah 31:7-9; [Hebrews 7:23-28]; Mark 10:46-52

### **FOOD BASKET**

Thank you for your support. Gifts of food are always 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.

### **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!

Noel finishes up here early in November. His last Sunday is on 1 November (All Saints) but he will lead the weekday services on Tuesday 3 (Park Lane) and Wednesday 4. There is thus a gap of about a month. We are grateful that the Revd Hilary Leith, Hospital Chaplain, and 'one of our own' has agreed to help us bridge the gap and we are still working on filling a few 'holes'.

### **MONTHLY MAGAZINE**

Production of the magazine is under way and it will be available in the near future. It will cover a two months period. Our priest in charge finishes up at the beginning of November and the new vicar doesn't start until early December. Because of this we need to vary the dates somewhat.

St. Francis

