

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

Sunday 1 November 2015
All Saints Day

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00 Book of Common Prayer (blue book)

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

TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP

Sentence: And a great multitude, from every nation and tribe and people and language, cried with a loud voice, saying 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.' *Revelation 7:10*

Collect:

We praise you, heavenly Father, that you have knit together your chosen ones in one communion and fellowship in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Readings:

Lesson Wisdom 3:1-9

Psalm 24

Epistle Revelation 21:1-6a

Gospel John 11:32-44

Post-Communion Prayer:

Eternal God, neither death nor life can separate us from your love: grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth, and in heaven rejoice with all your saints who ceaselessly proclaim your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Hymns

Introit 636 For all the saints (omit vv.5,6)

Gradual 372 Blest are the pure in heart

Offertory 675 Rejoice in God's saints

Dismissal 578 Let saints on earth in concert sing

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Wisdom 3:1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Revelation 21:1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 11:32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

All Saints

In the New Testament “the saints” means all the believers who are dedicated to God. As such, the word has connections with the dedicated believers of the old covenant. In the Christian tradition particular honour began to be paid to exceptional examples of the Christian way, especially those who died for the faith, the martyrs. So the word “saint” came to describe those who have become officially recognised by the church as in some measure fulfilling their call to be saints. In the seventeenth century Jeremy Taylor wrote: ‘The memories of the saints are precious to God, and therefore they ought also to be so to us: and such persons, who serve God by holy living, industrious preaching, and religious dying, ought to have their names preserved in honour, and God be glorified in them, and their holy doctrines and lives published and imitated.’

The setting aside of a special day to commemorate all saints, whether known or unknown, has a complex and rather confused history. A feast in honour of “the martyrs of the whole world” was kept in the late third century in the east, and by the late fourth century there were references to such a day on the first Sunday after Pentecost. In Rome in 610 the old Roman Pantheon was consecrated as a Christian church and dedicated to “St Mary and All Martyrs” on 13 May that year. That may mark the emergence of the annual feast in the western church.

The enlarging of the feast to include not just all martyrs but all saints, and the observance of the feast on 1 November, are harder to trace. Pope Gregory III (734-741) dedicated a chapel in St Peter’s in Rome to All the Saints on 1 November, and by the ninth century a feast to All Saints was being observed in England on 1 November. November 1 also seems to have been the day for observing a feast to All Saints in Ireland from about that time. It is possible that the November date began in Ireland and spread from there throughout Europe.

The universal observance of All Saints’ Day on 1 November was urged in 844 by Pope Gregory IV in a letter to the emperor Louis the Pious. Certainly, the feast had become a popular one and fixed on 1 November by the tenth century.

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, and for those who support their work as archdeacons and chaplains. For the Cathedral and its role as a parish church and as the centre of diocesan life. All churches dedicated to All Saints.

The sick, especially Robyn Lynch, Briar Garraway, Amanda, Hope, Bob, and Gabriel. This community and especially those living in Dallinghoe Crescent, Dodson Avenue, Fenwick Avenue, Frater Avenue, Frieston Road.

TODAY

is Noel's last Sunday as priest in charge. He wants to thank everyone for their friendship and cooperation. The last six months have gone very quickly and now the weather is gradually changing (well, if you say it often enough you believe it!) – no more early morning experiences driving in the dark with gusts on the Harbour bridge. He urges everyone to get behind the new Vicar and support him by your regular participation in worship. He and Judith set sail on a cruise next Sunday around the NZ coast, through Fiordland and then Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 3	10.00 Holy Communion at Park Lane retirement village Selwyn Centre 9.30 to 11.30 monthly lunch cost \$5.00. Join in good conversation, friendship and fun.
Wednesday 4	10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea.
Thursday 5	<i>Mainly Music</i> this week

NEXT SUNDAY, 8 November is the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Services at 8.00 (NZPB) and 9.30 (NZPB).

Readings:

1 Kings 17:8-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

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!

In the meantime we look forward to the ministries of the Revd Hilary Leith, the Revd Cate Thorn, and the Revd Joan McIntosh who will bridge the gap in various ways.



Today is Noel's last Sunday with us.

Thank you, Noel, for the time you have spent with us. You have made our time of transition easy, painless, and a delight. We have enjoyed getting to know you. Parishioners have welcomed your home visits and home Communions. We have appreciated you attending Mainly Music and Selwyn Centre when time has permitted. Our vestry meetings have been very productive, thank you for chairing them and keeping us focused. We have loved the additional teaching that you have included in the Weekly Newsletter and also the interesting articles (about people in our Parish) that you have put into the monthly magazine. We wish you, and Judith, a very happy and restful holiday.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME 19" Flat Screen Computer Monitor see Megan.

