

ANGLICAN PARISH OF MILFORD

St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford

Sunday 31st March

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Vicar The Rev'd Grant Robertson
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Sentence - God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18

Collect - God of compassion, you are slow to anger, and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts: receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you, and seat them at your bountiful table, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

8.00am - Lenten Liturgy

9.30am - Lenten Liturgy

Introit 43 I will sing a wondrous story

Gradual 184 The kingdom of God

Offertory 507 Just as I am, without one plea

Dismissal 437 I cannot tell why he whom angels worship

Readings for today Sunday 31st March **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

1st Reading - Joshua 5: 9-12

Epistle - 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Gospel - Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am – Karen Stubbs and Patrick Jackson

Joshua 5: 9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to

celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

We remember in our prayers – Jessica, Peter, Pat, Hazel, Robert, Shelley, Cynthia, Margaret, Hilda, John, Logan, Kelvin, Carol, Bob and Gabriel, Lynette and Gail. And residents and parishioners in Rahopara Street, Seaview Road, Taumata Road.

Lenten study continues - Wednesdays 11:30am -12:30pm using the Visual Bible presentation. Study consists of a 30 minute dvd portrayal of the word for word text of Matthews gospel followed by 30 minute discussion. The study has been scheduled to allow for the accounts of Palm Sunday; Holy Week and Easter to coincide with the actual calendar events this year. Notes are provided.

Enquiries to Colleen and Richard Binns.

**Readings for next Sunday 7th April
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

1st Reading - Isaiah 43: 16-21

Epistle - Philemon 3: 4b-14

Gospel - John 12: 1-8

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Megan Bowden and Marion Chiswell

This Week

Tuesday 2nd April - Selwyn Centre 9.30am Join us for fun and friendship. Cost \$3.00.

Wednesday 3rd April - Mid week Holy Communion 10.00am. Followed by morning tea.

Thursday 4th April - Mainly Music 10.00am. Parish dinner check information below.

Sunday 7th April - 8.00am and 9.30am Holy Communion.

Parish Dinner - This Thursday 4th April 7pm at Musashi Japanese Restaurant in Milford. Please sign list at back of church **TODAY** if you are able to attend.

High Tea - Given the great success of our last high tea, and the number of requests from those who attended, the next high tea will be on Saturday 11th May (the day before Mother's Day). Please book this into your diary, more details to follow.

Annual General Meeting of Seasons North Shore & Hibiscus Coast - To be held 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th April at St Paul's – by – the – Sea 10 Otakau Road Milford. See notice board or speak with Megan if you require any more information.

Parish Monthly mission giving - From January to April the mission givings will go to the Auckland City Mission; from May to August it will go to the North Shore hospital chaplaincy; from September to December it will go to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children.