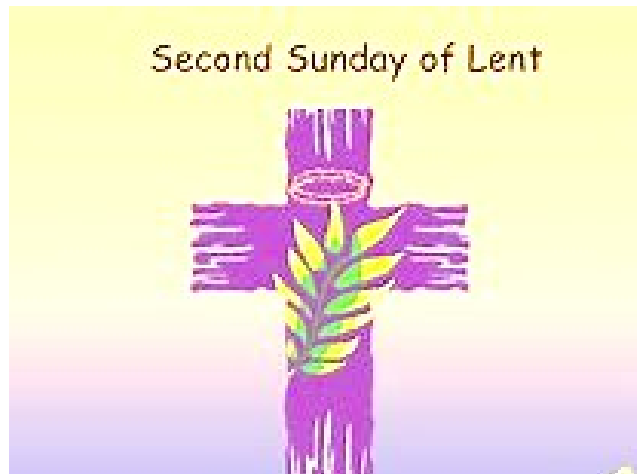


**St. Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford**  
**Sunday 16th March 2025**

**Vicar** The Rev'd Grant Robertson  
**The Vicarage** 10 Otakau Road, Milford  
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**Sentence** - Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20

**Collect** - **God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your church with such faith that we may follow you with courage; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen**

**Introit**            303 Lord of the changing year  
**Gradual**          670 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us  
**Offertory**        479 Put peace into each other's hands  
**Closing**         376 Songs of faithfulness and praise

**8.00am** - Lenten Liturgy

**9.30am** - Lenten Liturgy

**Readings for today Sunday 16th March**

First Reading - Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Epistle - Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel - Luke 13: 31-35

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Chris and Christine Maud

## **Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates".

## **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He

will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

### **Luke 13: 31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

We remember in our prayers - those people in our parish in need of prayer. We remember Lyn and Megan. We also remember residents and parishioners in Pax Avenue, Quebec Road, Raines Road, Regal Place, Seine Road, Trevone Place.

### **NEXT WEEK**

Tuesday 18th	Selwyn Centre at 9.30am. Join us for exercise, fellowship, fun, and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 19th	Holy Communion at 10.00am. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 20th	Mainly Music 10.00am. Cost \$5.00 per family.
Sunday 23rd	8.00am - Holy Communion 9.30am - Holy Communion

## **St Paul's AGM - Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Our AGM will take place during the 9.30am Service.

## **Readings for next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

First Reading - Isaiah 55: 1-9

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Gospel - Luke 13: 1-9

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Sarah and Edward

## **THE SEASON OF LENT**

**Lent** is a journey towards Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday.

**Lent** is a time when we as Christians prepare to celebrate the most important feast in the Church year, Easter.

**Lent** comes from the old English word, *Lente* which means lengthen. In New Zealand with our long days and shorter nights we see all around us the bright colours and the growth of new life, signs of new beginnings and hope.

**Lent**; a journey of discovery towards a deeper relationship with God. On this journey of 40 days, we are invited to take some time to reflect on the gift of life that is given to us and God's presence with us.

**Lent** is a time of renewal. It is a time to detox, to rid ourselves of those things that bind us - impatience, resentment, anger, frustration, and to engage in positive things - forgiveness, love, kindness, compassion.

**Lent** invites us to do "something extra". To make more space for God, taking five minutes to sit still and to breathe in and to breathe out God's life, to recite the "Our Father" and allow the words to take hold of us. To fast from some of our favourite foods or doing something positive, giving a smile to someone.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**At this stage Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March will be the last 8am service at St Paul's. This service will go into recess until further notice. This is due to the decline in numbers and there being no organist available to play at this service.**