



*A place of
resurrection,
life, and hope*

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18 May 2014 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00 am - Eucharist (NZPB 404) Rev'd Dr. Howard Pilgrim
 10.00 am - Choral Eucharist with the Cathedral choristers
 Preacher: (NZPB 404) Rev'd Dr. Howard Pilgrim
 Presider: (NZPB 404) Very Rev'd Dr. Michael Godfrey

*Please ensure all cellphones are switched **OFF** when in the Cathedral;
 if necessary, adjust hearing aids to the "Loop" system.*



The **CATHEDRAL KIDS** programme is normally offered at the Cathedral during the 10.00am service on Sundays of the school term; or there are craft/colouring activities available for children on the back table.

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PRAYER CYCLES

Anglican Communion

We pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia, The Most Revd David Vunagi, Archbishop of Melanesia and Bishop of Central Melanesia.

Anglican Board of Missions

✠ We pray for the Anglican Indigenous Network; for its work in development, training and resource sharing; and for Bishop John Grey, its General Secretary.

Diocese, Parish and Community

✠ Rev'd Brian Hamilton, Vicar-General; Dean Michael Godfrey; Regional Deans (BOP, East, HB)

✠ The people of Wairoa Parish, and their ministry support team: Joy Senior, Richard Senior and Eric Sweeting.

✠ The people of Westshore Parish and their ministry support team.

✠ We pray for those who are unwell, awaiting for, or recovering from surgery, or bereaved, especially: Nancy, Pat, Ian, Chris, Richard, Helen, Diana

*We have **low-Gluten wafers** (below 20ppm) available - please advise the Presider, or one of the Welcoming team, if this is your dietary requirement.*

TODAY ...

- We welcome all who are worshipping with us today, especially if you are visiting Napier or the Cathedral for the first time. Feel free to join us for morning tea or coffee served at the back of the cathedral following the 10am service.



THE PROCESS TO ELECT THE NEXT BISHOP OF WAIAPU

Nominees for the 16th Bishop of Waiapu are :

Rev'd Alex Czerwonka, Rotorua
Rev'd Andrew Hedge, Cambridge
Rev'd Dr Howard Pilgrim, Napier
Rev'd Barbara Walker, Hastings
Rev'd Oenone Woodhams, Napier

Profiles of each candidate, along with their biographies, are now posted on the Diocesan web-site ... <http://waiapu.com/resources/electoral-college-candidate-profiles/>

Video interviews will be completed later this month and details circulated to members of the Electoral College in preparation for the meeting on the 14-15th June 2014 in Havelock North.

Please continue to pray for the candidates, the electoral college members, and our Diocese.

BELL TOWER

Vestry members have received, considered and discussed the engineering report into the state of our building.

There is much to be optimistic about; some areas to be concerned about; and more detailed engineering exploratory work to be completed!

In the meantime, please be aware of new signs attached to the bell tower, which state:

This tower and entrance are earthquake prone as assessed under the Building Act 2004. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

ON LEAVE

The **Rev'd Margaret Thompson** is on leave from the Parish Office until **Tuesday 3rd June**.

Thanks to those who are assisting in the Office until then, but there may be times when the Office is unattended and/or the Cathedral closed - please leave a message on the answerphone or contact the Dean on the Parish mobile, 021 688-227.

PRAYER DURING COMMUNION

A member of the ministry team will be available in the Resurrection Chapel during Communion at the 10.00am Choral Eucharist service in the Cathedral, for anyone who wishes personal prayer, or prayer for a specific purpose, and/or anointing with oil for healing (if required).

If you wish to have someone pray with and for you, please go directly to the Resurrection Chapel (at the back of the Cathedral) after receiving communion.

TODAY'S READINGS ...

Sentence:

'I am the way, the truth and the life,' says the Lord. 'No-one comes to the Father but by me.' *John 14:6*

Collect:

Everliving God,
Whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
The truth, and the life:
Give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
And to share his risen life,
who lives and reigns with you
And the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

I come to you, LORD,
for protection.

Don't let me be ashamed.
Do as you have promised
and rescue me.

Listen to my prayer
and hurry to save me.

Be my mighty rock^[a]
and the fortress
where I am safe.

You, LORD God,
are my mighty rock
and my fortress.

Lead me and guide me,
so that your name
will be honoured.

Protect me from hidden traps
and keep me safe.

You are faithful,
and I trust you
because you rescued me.

My life is in your hands.

Save me from enemies
who hunt me down.

Smile on me, your servant.

Have pity and rescue me

1 Peter 2:2-10

Be like new-born babies who are thirsty for the pure spiritual milk that will help you grow and be saved. You have already found out how good the Lord really is.

Come to Jesus Christ. He is the living stone that people have rejected, but which God has chosen and highly honoured. And now you are living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house. You are also a group of holy priests, and with the help of Jesus Christ you will offer sacrifices that please God. 6 It is just as God says in the Scriptures, "Look! I am placing in Zion a choice and precious cornerstone.

No one who has faith
in that one
will be disappointed."

You are followers of the Lord, and that stone is precious to you. But it isn't precious to those who refuse to follow him. They are the builders who tossed aside the stone that turned out to be the most important one of all. They disobeyed the message and stumbled and fell over that stone, because they were doomed.

But you are God's chosen and special people.

You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done.

The Scriptures say,

“Once you were nobody.

Now you are God’s people.

At one time no one

had pity on you.

Now God has treated you

with kindness

John 14:1-14

Jesus said to his disciples, “Don’t be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I wouldn’t tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. You know the way to where I am going.”

Thomas said, “Lord, we don’t even know where you are going! How can we know the way?”

“I am the way, the truth, and the life!” Jesus answered. “Without me, no one can go to the Father. If you had known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.”

Jesus replied:

Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don’t you know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask me to show you the Father? Don’t you believe that I am one with the Father and that the Father is one with me? What I say isn’t said on my own. The Father who lives in me does these things.

Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me and that I am one with

the Father. Or else have faith in me simply because of the things I do. I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father. Ask me, and I will do whatever you ask. This way the Son will bring honour to the Father. I will do whatever you ask me to do.

GOSPEL COMMENT ...

I generally use, if not instructed otherwise, John 14:1-14 at funerals. It is of course a “pie in the sky” passage, and will sound like that to all for whom the leap of faith (we saw Thomas struggling with that last week) beyond the rational and empirical is impossible. I’m afraid I can’t do much to make that easier: there is a pie in the sky dimension to our faith, and I am unconvinced that we have anything much to say if we remove the pie from the sky. So yes: a mansion with many rooms, a paddock with many shady trees, a place of great comfort, a place where tears and weeping and sorrows cease and the ache of empty hearts is finally redeemed.

FROM DEANLY DELVINGS

We cannot, as Christians, speak of the Father without the story of Jesus.

Gavin D’Costa, *Christian Uniqueness Reconsidered* (1990) 18

FROM YOUR DEAN ...

Around the time I wrote last week's column the world's interest in the Boko Haram kidnapping took off, (I apologize that Bill Gates insisted on changing it to "harem" without my noticing) and I thank God for that. I thank the Rev'd Dorothy, too, for pulling together time and energy for a vigil last Wednesday: this is *precisely* the sort of action a cathedral must take in the face of bewildering tragedy. Thanks to all who came.

The tragedy goes on, and in the time since writing last more girls have been kidnapped and a few hundred people slaughtered in northern Nigeria. How can we begin to imagine the terror and the tragedy? Rowan Williams is on record as saying no western Christian should claim to be suffering for their faith at this time. To a large extent he is right: a few of us might get laughed at for our silly ideas but on the whole, so far, our life is fairly easy. In the past week there has also been a massacre of Christians on the Somali border region of Kenya: our brothers and sisters are dying for their faith.

For us as Christians there is the horrible spectre of enforced apostasy (desertion of one's religion), as well as terrible human suffering underscoring these tragedies. The ancient church wrestled with the question of what should be done to those who desert their faith under duress. It is one of the few things I applaud St Augustine for (well, one of many, but he got original sin and sex terribly wrong). He saw clearly that we must if we are to have a gospel of grace have arms that welcome back the apostate. Actually he and those that agreed with him were less generous than it sounds: they would not permit apostates back to communion until considerable penance was done, and sometimes until their deathbed. It was however better

than the extremist position that nearly won the day.

It's such a tightrope, but I believe our doctrine(s) of salvation ("soteriology") should always err on the side of grace. Certainly I doubt if I would easily, were I in the horrible situation of the Boko Haram hostages, face down probable execution for my faith. I suspect most of us would stumble, fall, mutter things with our fingers crossed. Some would not. Some would surprise us, in both directions. Graham Greene captured this issue powerfully in some of his so-called "catholic novels," especially *The Power and the Glory*.

All I can say is that we must continue to pray. To pray for the girls of Nigeria, for their families, for Christians in every land in which their belief brings them into contact with militant enmity (not just Islam, and sometimes even other Christian).

We must wrestle, too, with the question of mission. Muslims converting to Christianity may well be executed for their apostasy from Islam. Should we ever try to convert those of other faiths? Is Jesus present in other faiths? But if so, why are Christians dying for their adherence to the very words that are our gospel reading this day, "no one comes to the Father but by me"? Are missionaries misguided? Do we evangelise only amongst those with no religion (which does not include atheists)? Should we evangelise at all?

For a nuanced Islamic perspective I recommend an article in *Al Jazeera* last week: google "Islam, Saudi and Apostasy". For the rest of us, let's pray: for victims, for those who weep, and for us, as we try to understand questions of mission, faithfulness, and grace.

THE CREED AND CROSSED FINGERS?

GOD ... MAKER OF ALL THAT IS, SEEN AND UNSEEN

We could add 'known and unknown'. I was in a waiting room the other day reading a *National Geographic* article on quarks. As a bear of very little brain I can't even get my head around stars, let alone black holes and quarks. Even bank statements are beyond my comprehension: seas of figures, more or less orderly, out of which Good or Bad Conclusions spring unexpectedly at the end.

I don't need to know about quarks. What I am invited to know about is a Creator God who is big enough to know about quarks – and about all that is, seen and unseen. The Creed proposed a Big God: whether I or Albert Einstein or the rickshaw driver in a Peshawar suburb knows what a quark is, the God of the Creed knows, controls, and creates these incomprehensible entities. This God creates, too, the unmapped neurons of the human mind, the intricacies of the butterfly's wing, the complexities of a bat's sonar: all that is, seen and unseen.

Theology suggests we cannot know God merely by complexities of creation. We can see traces of divine artistry, however, and begin the search. We can equally see a bat or a monarch butterfly and decide that nature is a complex and unguided force: certainly watching a spider or a praying mantis devour its prey is not immediately conducive of thoughts of a loving God. Christians never believed divine art could conclusively prove or disprove the existence of a God. They believed that, if there is a God, then that God must be bigger and more complex than either a quark or the processes that turned a bat's voice into sonar. Bigger and

more complex than a balance sheet, too! Bigger and more complex, in fact, than anything we can know or imagine.

That God, the Christians believed, draws near to humankind in a human person – the subject of the second 'paragraph' of the creed.

Dean Michael and Dorothy Brooker will be away on retreat in Hamilton from Tuesday until Thursday afternoon of this week.

FORTIETH WORLD VISION FORTY HOUR FAMINE

Yes it has been 40 years since those first hardy souls undertook the famine (I was in the fourth form at the time, and only the Christian Fellowship kids at my school did it, at first).

The two Godfrey boys are participating this year, and would no doubt appreciate your sponsorship if you are willing. Either respond personally or they are on line at

<https://www.worldvision.org.nz/portal/famine/40th-year.aspx>

And enter either Jonty Godfrey or Julian Godfrey into the search window.

Many thanks!

The Hastings Choral Society
and Gisborne Choral Society
present Mendelssohn's

ELIJAH

with soloists Catherine Macdonald,
Christie Cook, Frank Carter, Joseph
Christensen;

and Waiapu Cathedral's Director of
Music, Gary Bowler, on the organ;
Gavin Maclean, conductor.

TODAY:

Sunday 18th May 2014, 2.00pm

**St Matthew's Church,
King St, Hastings.**

Door sales: \$25.00
(school students: gold coin donation)
Pre-concert ticket sales \$22
from Rev'd Graeme Pilgrim.

RECEIPTS

Isobel, our Parish Recorder, has prepared (and now posted out) receipts for those who have made donations to the Parish through the offertory system (envelopes / direct credits etc) for the year ending 31st March 2014.

These may be used to claim a tax rebate with the IRD for tax returns.

Saturday 28th June at All Saints Taradale starting at 5.30pm will have a film evening. Pot luck finger food and cake/slices.

Sunday 31st August - Join a service at All Saints Taradale at 10.30am.

TAIZÉ VESPERS

Now that the evenings are drawing in, the Taizé vespers season is beginning at St Paul's. Join in the gentle rhythm of prayers, short songs and silence to restore your souls at the end of the day and prepare for the start of the new week.

Services are on the **third Sunday of the month** beginning today, **May 18th at 7.00pm** at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, cnr Tennyson and Dalton Streets, Napier. For further information ph 8355359 or email stpaulsnapier@gmail.com.

A Parish Story - Judy Mills

Celebrating 150 years as a Cathedral Parish.

The book is now available!

Order a copy today - \$37 from the Parish shop or Office; or \$40 NZ posted.


COMING UP THIS WEEK ... & OTHER DIARY DATES -


 **Tuesday 20-Thursday 22 May**
Diocesan Clergy Retreat at Hamilton

 **Wednesday 21 May**
10.30 am - Home Bible Study group

 **Monday 26-Thursday 29 May**
Schools "Big Sing" in Cathedral

 **Monday 2 June**
**Cathedral CLOSED for Queen's Birth-
day statutory holiday**

 **Sunday 8 June**
10.00 am - Day of Pentecost - Parish
Eucharist and Baptism

 **Sunday 8 June**
2.30 pm - Concord Strings and Cantare
Singers in Concert in the Cathedral;
Adults \$20, seniors \$15, students \$10

 **Sunday 8 June**
5.00 pm - EJP meeting in lounge


Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd June
A.A.W. AGM. All Saints, Taradale.

NEXT SUNDAY - 25 May 2014 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 17: 22-31
66:8-20
1 Peter 3: 13-22
John 14: 15-21

Cathedral:
8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Choral Eucharist with the
cathedral choir

Ormond Chapel, Napier Terrace:
11 am Eucharist

 **Sunday 22 June**
10.00 am - Woodford House school at
the Cathedral for Choral Eucharist with
the Woodford House choir

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST ROSTERS have
been emailed... please arrange a swap and
advise the Office if you are not available
for your rostered duty. Thanks.

MID-WEEK SERVICES

(in the Resurrection Chapel)

9.00am - Morning Prayer - Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
10.30am - Eucharist - Tuesdays
12.30pm - Mid-day Prayer - Wednesdays

CLERGY:

Dean:	Michael Godfrey	835 7862
	Parish Mobile:	021 688 227
Assisting Clergy:	Dorothy Brooker	843 6779
	Graeme Pilgrim	835 6777
	Jon Williams	833 6382
	Anne van Gend	835 7862

WARDENS:

Dean's	Basil Brooker	877 8344
People's	Marie Knight	844 3578

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Gary Bowler	835 8523
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LAY ASSISTANTS:

Elisabeth Paterson	835 4609
Jennifer Harris	845 1108

OFFICE:

Monday-Friday 9.30 am - 3.30 pm	835 8824
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Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, 28 Browning Street, Napier, NZ
Phone 835-8824 ~ PO Box 495, Napier ~ email: office@napiercathedral.org.nz
www.napiercathedral.org.nz