

St Paul's in the Park March Newsletter

God will Provide

A young woman brings home her husband-to-be to meet her parents. After dinner the father invites the young man into his study. 'So what are your plans?' the father asks him. 'I am a Bible scholar,' the young man replies.

'That is admirable,' the father replies, 'but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in as she's accustomed to?' 'I will study,' he replies, 'and God will provide for us.'

'And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring such as she deserves?' 'I will concentrate on my studies and God will provide,' he answers.

'And children?' asks the father. 'How will you support children?' 'Don't worry, sir, God will provide,' answers the young man.

The conversation proceeds like this, and each time the young man insists that God will provide. Later the mother asks, 'How did it go, honey?'

The father answers, 'He has no job and no plans, but the good news is he thinks I am God!'

A humorous story by way of introducing this point: When we are in need it is good to pray about it and to seek God's help, but it is important to remember this, 'God helps those who help themselves.' If we sit back and expect everything to fall in our lap just because we have asked God, it probably won't happen. Miracles do happen but invariably we achieve something through hard work, albeit with God's strength and help. And that should be the focus and tenor of our prayer.

'A person will reap exactly what he plants.' Galatians 6:7

'Don't ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not prepared to move your feet.' Anon.

Christchurch

Much has been written and spoken about the horrific massacre in Christchurch last week, and we are all struggling to come to terms with it. I will be offering a few thoughts in my sermon this coming Sunday.

One tangible way we can offer support is to contribute to one of the many appeals set up in aid of the victims. To that end, I am blown away and hugely encouraged by the response of people, both here in New Zealand and overseas. It is a powerful statement about where we stand on the issue of embracing diversity and tolerance of differences. Politics and attitudes based on race and creed have no place here in New Zealand, and ironically, I believe this act of barbarism has actually highlighted this.

The response of New Zealanders, has been, if not Christian in name, certainly Christian in character. I am heartened and reassured by that.

Confirmation

On Sunday 2 June Bishop Ross will be conducting a Confirmation service at St Paul's (this will take place at 10.00am in place of our usual service at that time). At this stage we have 3-4 young people coming forward for Confirmation.

Confirmation is our opportunity as mature people to make a statement about our faith. In essence, it is a confirmation of the vows made on our behalf at baptism. However, it may well be that you were not baptised as a 'baby.' That is absolutely fine, but if you would like to contemplate Confirmation, baptism would need to take place sometime before Confirmation. Baptism can be carried out at any age, as can Confirmation. It is not at all uncommon for

adults to come forward for Confirmation.

It is a very meaningful service and a very important step to take in one's spiritual journey. If you would like to discuss this further with me, please do so.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 10.00am Sunday April 14.
Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Tenebrae service April 18
Good Friday 10.00am April 19
Easter Sunday 10.00am April 21

Palm Crosses

We will be gathering in the hall on Saturday 13 at 9.00am in order to make the crosses for Palm Sunday. Do hope you can join us.

AGM

Our AGM will be held following our 10.00am service on Sunday 31 March. This is Mothering Sunday and a special morning tea will be provided.
With regards positions to be filled, if you would like to join vestry, please let me know. Also, we are looking for another Synod rep. This entails attending Synod on behalf of our church. Synod meets September 5 (evening) to 7 (afternoon).

Absence

I will be taking a week off immediately after Easter (April 22-28). Bishop John Paterson will be taking our service on Sunday 28 April.

End of Financial Year

Just a reminder that it is almost the end of the financial year with regards tax, so get those envelopes in before the end of the month and get your tax rebate qualifying for the 2018-19 tax year.

New Church Build

We have the first estimate of cost from the Quantity Surveyor and it looks like the project as currently specified is higher than we should wisely take on, so our next job is to carefully work through all the details to bring it back within a safe budget level. The details of the elemental estimate that our QS has prepared gives us what we need to be able to do this. I will be meeting with John McClean, our architect, next week to begin that process.





To Ponder

'I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to my fellow creature, let me do it now.' Stephen Grellet.

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