

St Paul's in th Park Newsletter 15 November 2021

Trusting God

There is a story of a mountain climber who was climbing a tall peak on his own. The climb took longer than he had planned and night fell as he was climbing a ridge when he slipped and fell. Visibility was zero as he plunged downwards. He was quite certain that he was falling to his death when he felt a sharp jolt that almost tore him in half.

Like any good mountain climber he had staked himself with a long rope tied to his waist. He hung there, suspended in the air. He couldn't see a thing and in desperation he called out, 'Help me, God. Please help me.'

All of a sudden, he heard a deep voice, 'What do you want me to do?' 'Save me!' the climber cried. 'Do you really think I can save you?' 'Of course, God. Of course.'

'Then cut the rope that is holding you up.'

There was another moment of silence and stillness. The man just held tighter to the rope.

The next day the rescue team found a frozen climber hanging strongly to a rope.....two feet off the ground.

How is our trust in God? How strong is our faith? Would we have the faith to cut that rope?

We need to cut that rope and simply put our trust in God.

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

THE FIFTY-SIXTH SYNOD of the DIOCESE of AUCKLAND.

Rev. Wilder and I attended the Zoom Meeting of Synod which took place on 12th and 13th November. This was a very different format and for some of us less computer-literate than others, a little challenging, and took some getting used to.

Three bills and ten motions were brought before Synod for consideration and although some proved to be lengthy in debate, all were successfully passed at the end of the two days. Topics included the usual debates on Housing, support for the Less-privileged and Disabled, Trust Management and Building Fund, to the more updated topics of the Effects of Covid on church life, Climate Change :COP26 and the development of the Digital Church service.

St Paul's made us very proud by being placed fifth in a survey done on the online impact of digital services....after large and dynamic congregations at the parishes of St Paul's Symonds St, Balmoral, Hillsborough and Epsom. Well done to everyone on supporting our church services by enjoying viewing and participating in them, to producing them for the enjoyment and spiritual satisfaction of viewing.

The Diocese at the end of Synod is, as always, aware of our in-put and with the ongoing drive by Warner and the Building Team we are showing them that we do deserve to make a start on that beautiful new St Paul's in The Park complex.

God Bless. Take care and stay safe.

Kia kaha, Lorna Whyte, Synod Rep.

A perspective on lockdown with four children.

On making the comment to my four children after a particular rowdy exchange, 'You lot don't always make lockdown life easy,' one of my boys responded, 'Well, dad, that's your fault for having four kids.' I suppose he has a point. Roll on school!



Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33)

01-04-2008

PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

To Ponder

'One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.'

Bryan McGill

Time for a Smile

Speaking of school.....

Teacher: 'You! Did you miss school yesterday?'

Pupil: 'Yes, but not very much.'

Father: 'I hear you skipped school to play football.'

Son: 'No, I didn't, and I have the fish to prove it.'

Reverend Warner Wilder

warnerwilder30@gmail.com

021 548 407