

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter February 2023

Perseverance

Recently, I have spoken in church about the need for perseverance in our prayer life, and indeed, in pursuing a relationship with God. This is simply a maxim for life.

Every day, a fatherless boy gazed at the fence separating his family's ramshackle cabin from the Glen Lakes Country Club golf course on the outskirts of Dallas. What chance did a poor Chicano boy have of being welcomed into that world?

Yet the boy was determined. First, he gained entrance to the grounds as a gardener. Then he began caddying and playing a few holes at dusk. He honed his putting skills by hitting balls with a soda bottle wrapped in adhesive tape.

Some years later, no fence would keep Lee Trevino, two-time US Open winner, from being welcomed into any country club in the nation. Sure, Trevino had talent but without perseverance he would never have made it to the top.

Perseverance in prayer shows God that we mean business and that we are sincere. I remind you of the story Jesus told of the persistent widow, who pestered a judge for justice. In the end, because of her persistence, the judge granted her what she was seeking (Luke 18:1-7). In the same way, God will grant us what we are seeking if we persist.

'Pray at all times and on every occasion....and be persistent in your prayers.' Ephesians 6:18.

Cyclone Appeal

I do hope you have been spared the devastation that Gabrielle has wreaked on countless homes. We can support those who have been affected by donating goods. Keep that food coming into our food bank, and if you are unable to drop off at the church, let me know and I will arrange to have it picked up.

The parish of Pukekohe are appealing for clothing, bedding and household goods for those who have been displaced from their homes. At the moment they are living in temporary accommodation so are unable to take possession of donated goods. Please put aside anything you might have to offer and I will let you know when it is needed.

Ash Wednesday

Lent is almost upon us. We will be holding a service at 7.00pm on Ash Wednesday, which is next week (22nd). Please do join us.

Easter

The schedule of services for Easter:

Maundy Thursday (April 6) – 7.00pm

Good Friday (April 7) – 10.00am

Easter Sunday (April 8) – 9.30am

AGM

Our AGM will be held following the 10.15am service on Sunday 26 March. This is an important event for our church, so your attendance would be most welcome.

60 Years

Rhys and John Bean, two stalwarts of our church, are celebrating 60 years of marriage with a Renewal of Vows ceremony on Tuesday February 21st at 7.30 pm in the church and extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join them. We would love to see you there.

Time for a Smile

Did you hear about the mother-in-law who complimented her daughter's husband? She called him a perfect idiot.



To Ponder

'The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people.' Leo Tolstoy.

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