

### **Tolerance**

A father and his son were travelling on a bus. The father inadvertently violated a minor safety regulation on the bus. The bus driver went berserk. He verbally abused the father, humiliating him in front of his young son and the rest of the passengers.

After it was all over, the boy said to his father, 'Dad, you didn't have to take that. He was way out of line.' The father replied, 'Son, that poor man has to put up with himself twenty-four hours a day. The least I can do is put up with him for two minutes.'

When we respond to any sort of unpleasantness, negativity or unkindness, all we are doing is letting ourselves be dragged down to the level of the perpetrator. By not responding, we rise above the antagonism, and can actually claim the moral high ground. It's called 'turning the other cheek,' and it is very powerful.

'But I say, don't resist an evil person. If you are slapped on the right cheek, turn the other too.' Matthew 5:39.

### **One Service**

It has been decided to continue with the one service at 9.30am for the remainder of the year.

### **Christmas Services**

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Carols in the Park  
11.00pm Holy Communion  
Christmas Day: 9.30am Holy Communion.

Please note: Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. It has been decided not to hold the usual Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion service, but to focus on the 6.00pm carol service. The 11.00pm service offers the opportunity for communion. It was felt that the size of our congregation did not really warrant four services in 24 hours.

### **Blessing**

On Thursday about 60 people gathered for the blessing of our build site by Bishop Ross. This is a project that has been many years in the making and it was with a sense of excitement, aligned with some degree of relief, that we congregated on a warm morning for this significant occasion.

Following the blessing of the site and the turning of a sod of turf by Bishop Ross, we moved into the hall for speeches, a song by our music group and a wonderful and customary spread provided by our church ladies. The speakers included our Deputy Mayor, Desley Simpson, who stated that this project is so very important, not just for the community of Flat Bush, but for Auckland as well.

In attendance were representatives from Auckland Council, the local Howick Board, the Diocese, BSM Architects, Foundation North, the construction company (McMillan and Lockwood), donors and church members.

We are most grateful to Bishop Ross for presiding at this important occasion, which marks the beginning of the last leg of what has been a long journey, and also to the Diocese for their support of this project.

### **Cleaning of Brass**

For many years, Patricia McFarland has been cleaning the brass in our church. She has finally decided to call it a day. We are so very grateful to her for this wonderful service to our church.

If you are at all interested in helping out with this duty, please let me know. The expectation is that the brass is cleaned very 2-3 weeks. It could be that we draw up a roster if there is sufficient interest.

### Car Boot Sale

It was decided on Friday evening to cancel our car boot sale due to widespread rain being forecast. As it turned out, the weather on Saturday morning wasn't so bad but the car park was awash with water and it would have been something of a nightmare. We will look at the possibility of rescheduling in the next few weeks.

### Time for a Smile

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

TEACHER: No, that's not right.

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!



### To Ponder

"The preacher is not a chef; he's a waiter. God doesn't want you to make the meal; He just wants you to deliver it to the table without messing it up. That's all." ~ John MacArthur

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