

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter March 2025

Perseverance in Prayer

Have you heard about the Chinese bamboo tree? The Chinese plant the seed; they water and fertilise it, but the first year nothing happens. The second year they water and fertilise it, and still nothing happens. The third and fourth years they water and fertilise it, and nothing happens. Then the fifth year they water and fertilise it, and sometime during the course of the fifth year, in a period of six weeks, the Chinese bamboo tree grows roughly ninety feet. The question is: Did it grow ninety feet in six weeks or did it grow ninety feet in five years? The obvious answer is that it grew ninety feet in five years, because had they not applied the water and fertiliser each year there would have been no Chinese bamboo tree.

We can draw a comparison between this anecdote and prayer. All too often when we pray we have a clear idea in our heads just how and when we expect our prayer to be answered. Invariably, we expect a prompt outcome, but the reality is that God's time is very different to ours.

In addition, perseverance shows that we are serious about our prayer and we are committed to prayer. Genuine prayer will yield a result, but sometimes we have to be a little patient.

'Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers.' Ephesians 6:18

'I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and helped me.' Psalm 40:1

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday: 7.00pm Washing of the Feet

Good Friday: 10.00am Journey to the Cross

Easter Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion

Age Concern Morning Tea

Age Concern Auckland will be holding a morning tea for older adults in our hall on Thursday 3 April at 10.30am. The purpose of this gathering is to explain and promote their available services. Spaces are limited, so anyone interested needs to contact me.

AGM

Our AGM will be held Sunday next week (30th) following our 9.30am service. As the reports have been circulated, I imagine it will be a relatively short meeting.

Palm Crosses

On Saturday 12 April we will meet in the hall at 9.30am in order to make palm crosses for our Palm Sunday service the following day. Would love to see you there.

Time for a Smile

'Mr Smith, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' said the divorce court judge, 'and I have decided to give your wife seven hundred dollars a week.'

'That's very fair, your honour,' the husband acknowledged, 'and every now and then I'll try and send her a few bucks too.'

Build

Progress continuing nicely. It looks like being mid-May when we will be open for business. We are in the process of looking into a few final items to complete our fitout. With regards budget, we remain a tad short and it occurred to me that there might be one or two in our community that might consider funding a particular item. With that in mind, here are a few possibilities.

Screens: 2 at \$5,000 each. Coffee machine: \$9,000 Chairs: main auditorium \$180 each (180), Lounge 2 \$100 each (40), Special – for elderly \$300 each (10), Café \$400 each (20), Café tables \$400 each (5), plates and cutlery \$2,000
If you are interested, please let me know.

To Ponder

'The power of God is never the power to dominate, intimidate or bully. It is always the power to serve.' Anon.

Rev Warner Wilder

021 548 407

warnerwilder30@gmail.com