

It's Hard Work

Susan Sharandon won the 1996 Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of Sister Helen Prejean in the movie, 'Dead Man Walking.' In the movie, based on actual events, the nun becomes spiritual advisor to Matthew Poncelet, a convicted murderer on Louisiana's death row, played by Sean Penn. Although Prejean has personal doubts about her work and is repeatedly confronted by the victim's enraged parents, she draws upon her inner strength to sustain her ministry. At the end of the movie, immediately after Poncelet's funeral, the father of one of the victim's comments that he wishes he had her faith. Sister Prejean replies, 'It's not just faith. It's not that easy. It's hard work.'

Just to reiterate what I have said on more than one occasion, to be a reasonable Christian (we can't really hope to be perfect Christians!) requires a degree of sacrifice, as well as a large dollop of commitment and devotion to what we believe. And there will be moments of doubts – we are all human.

'Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing him.'
Romans 12:1.

Concert

I am attaching a poster promoting a concert to be held in our auditorium on Saturday 18 October. It will be a memorable evening of music. Would love to see you there.

Food Bank

When you come to church, you will find a basket with a few grocery items by the door. This is our food bank. As you do your weekly shopping, please consider buying one small (or large!) item for our food bank. If we all do that, the sum contribution will be significant. The food is donated to the South Auckland Christian Food Bank.

Finances

Speaking of giving, financially, in terms of our church operating funds, we are struggling a little. At this point in the year, we are in the red. Running a church actually costs money. We have a duty to give to the needy. Well, right now our church is needy! Your support would be most welcome.

And just in case you have waylaid our bank a/c number: 06 0991 0056055 00

If you would like a donor number, please drop me an email and I will organise it.

'Honour the Lord with your wealth.' Proverbs 3:9.

Away

I will be taking a break from next Tuesday (23rd) until Monday 29th. Rev Bruce Richardson will be taking the service on Sunday 28th.

Don't forget that daylight saving begins that morning!

Guest Preachers

Rev Gareth Walters, Chaplain of King's College, will be preaching on Sunday 5 October.

On Sunday 9 November, our newly-appointed archdeacon, The Venerable Peter Jenkins, will be preaching.

Charlie Chaplin Movies

Next Wednesday (24th), the Clevedon Parish is showing Charlie Chaplin movies with live music. Click this link for tickets: [My E-Tickets](#)

Consecration Service

It was a wonderful occasion, with 230 people crammed into our auditorium. The feedback on both the occasion, and especially the wonderful complex, has been extremely positive.

Please note our new altar. It is swamp kauri, generously donated by David and Jayne MacClure. David has put hours of work into producing what is a stunning and unique altar.



Viewing

Our services continue to be widely viewed on both YouTube and also Facebook, with viewing numbers on the increase. Many thanks to Nigel for the wonderful job he does in this domain.

To Ponder

‘A diamond cannot be polished without friction, and a person cannot be perfected without trials.’
Chinese proverb.

Time for a Smile

A woman walks into a shop, picks up a can of fly spray and asks, ‘Is this any good for flies?’ ‘Not really,’ replies the assistant, ‘It kills them.’

A man goes into the doctor’s and says, ‘Doctor, my hands keep shaking.’ ‘Do you drink much?’ asks the doctor. ‘Not really,’ replies the man, ‘I tend to spill most of it.’

A man goes into the doctor’s and says, ‘Doctor, I keep feeling that everyone thinks I am a liar.’ ‘I find that hard to believe,’ says the doctor.’

Rev Warner Wilder
021 548 407