

## St Paul's in the Park Newsletter February 2026

### 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 of 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 into 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 will bring results. 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.

### Easter

The schedule of services for Easter:

Maundy Thursday (April 2) – 7.00pm

Good Friday (April 3) – 10.00am

Easter Sunday (April 5) – 9.30am

### AGM

Our AGM will be held following the 9.30am service on Sunday 22 March. This is an important event for our church, so would love to see you there.

### Garden

Attached are two shots of our church garden. 'Whenever you are creating beauty around you, you are restoring the soul.' Alice Walker, American writer.

### Observations of God from an 8-year-old

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to walk and talk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there any in our town. At least, there aren't any who come to our church.

### Palm Crosses

Palm Sunday is on the horizon. On Saturday 28 March we will be assembling at the church from 9.00am onwards in order to make palm crosses. Would love to see you there, so make an entry in your diary.

On that note, if you have access to flax, please let me know.

### **The Park Community Centre**

Interest and bookings continue to grow. The response from the community to the facilities on offer has been so very encouraging. Again, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work carried out by our booking manager, Shireen Powys.

### **Church Attendance**

It has been encouraging to see numbers growing over the past few weeks. We have been able to welcome many new people. I would like to acknowledge the way our congregation make them feel so very welcome.

### **Rev Ian Yong**

On Sunday 15 March, Rev Ian Yong will be preaching. Ian is based at St Paul's, Symonds St and also has a part-time commitment with NZ Church Missionary Society.

### **Time for a Smile**

A husband and his wife enter a dentist's office. The husband says, 'I want a tooth pulled out. I don't want gas or an injection as I'm in a terrible hurry. Just pull the tooth as quickly as possible.'

'You're brave man,' says the dentist. 'Now, show me which tooth it is.'

The husband turns to his wife and says, 'Open your mouth, dear, and show the dentist which tooth it is.'

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