

Prayer in Action

Dwight L Moody, 19th century American author and evangelist, on a trip across the Atlantic, helped the crew and other volunteers put out a fire in the hold of the ship. A friend said to Moody as they stood in the bucket line, 'Let's go to the other end of the ship and pray.' Moody, the common-sense evangelist, said, 'No, sir, we will stand right here and pass buckets and pray hard as we are doing so.'

That is prayer in action. Mahatma Ghandi said, 'What is faith if it is not translated into action?' To be valid, prayer must translate into faith in action.

'So you see, it isn't enough to just have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless.' James 2:17.

Flower Stands

We have been blessed with the gift of two beautiful flower stands, made by Rev Strett Nicolson and donated by Garth Ridgway. Here are a few notes from Strett regarding the symbolism involved.

'Symbols have long been important to encourage and support us in our faith. Traditionally our church pulpits, altars, lecterns, windows etc have always contained either colour drapes or carved symbols pointing us toward or reminding us of some important aspect of our faith and doctrines.

I have included in the making of the flower stands a few forms that to me are symbols representing aspects of our Christian faith .

The table-top has two beads cut into the circumference of the platter. The beads symbolize the two Testaments of the Bible: Old and New.

The base has three beads around the circumference. These beads symbolize the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The centre shape of the pedestal is made up of 7 wood turning forms. A flat, a cove, a flat, a sphere, a flat, a cove and a flat. The number 7 is considered a whole or perfect number in Christian theological numerology. The creation story took place over 7 days, Revelation speaks of letters to the 7 churches and so on. For me the 7 centre forms together represent Creation and the perfection of the original created order. There is no limit to how one may build on this fundamental of our faith that God the Father created perfectly. I feel comfortable to say, Divine power created, Divine power re-creates, restores, and finally it is Divine power that brings about Resurrection.'



A very big thank you to both Strett and Garth.

Barry Raeburn

Barry Raeburn, Mission Without Borders, who was unable to join us last month, will be preaching this coming Sunday.

The Park Community Centre Trust Continues to Thrive

The Park Community Centre Trust has become a highly sought-after community and events venue, serving a diverse range of groups and activities.

On the spiritual side, three churches regularly use The Park as their place of worship. The Park has hosted weddings, funerals, baptisms, women's awards ceremonies, conferences, health expos, birthdays, and many other celebrations that bring people together.

A particular highlight is the growing support for seniors within our community. Five senior groups currently meet at The Park, including the Auckland Age Concern in partnership with The Anglican Diocese, which hosts social connection gatherings fortnightly and pop-up health clinics every Friday. The Health and Wellbeing programme continues to flourish, with regular weekly bookings for karate, yoga, Zumba, and dance groups. Every Wednesday, The Park also welcomes families through its popular Mums and Bubs Group.

Demand for the venue remains exceptionally strong. Bookings for the next two months are already at capacity, with upcoming events including the Pasifika Women's Conference, Nurses Union meetings, Couples for Christ and Zoroastrian events, fundraising activities, birthdays, baby showers, Ministry of Education meetings, and many more community-focused gatherings.

The Park continues to be a vibrant hub where community, wellbeing, celebration, and connection come together.

If you are planning an event and would like to use The Park, we encourage you to contact us at least **two months in advance** to secure your preferred date.

A huge thank-you to Shireen Powys for the incredible job she does in managing The Park.

Time for a Smile

A man bumps into a friend as he comes out of from an appointment with the dentist, 'Oh,' said the man, 'I've just had all my teeth taken out. Never again!'

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