

PARISH OF MILFORD
St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford

Sunday 24th September 2023

Vicar The Rev'd Grant Robertson
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Sentence - By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2: 8-9

Collect - Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introit 44 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Gradual 96 Sing praise to the Lord
Offertory 201 Jesus, lover of my soul
Closing 623 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go

8am - Blue Book
9.30am - NZPB 404

Readings for today Sunday 24th September 2023

First Reading - Exodus 15: 2-15
Epistle - Philippians 1: 21-30
Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16
Readers 8am - To be advised
Readers 9.30am - Karen and Patrick

Exodus 15: 2-15

The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode. The peoples heard; they trembled; pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed; trembling seized the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

Philippians 1: 21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I

will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

We remember in our prayers - Lorraine, John, Tomas, Donna, Julie, Megan, Dianne, Noeline, Gillian, Barrie, Lesley, Lorna, Shobha, Pat, Hazel, Shelley, Cynthia, Logan, Kelvin, Margaret, and Jeff. Residents and parishioners in Knightsbridge Drive, Linwood Avenue, Lyttleton Avenue, Madison Place, Meadowvale Avenue, Merrifield Avenue.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 26th	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for friendship, fun and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 27th	10am Holy Communion. And morning tea.
Thursday 28th	Mainly Music is in recess until Thursday 12 th October
Sunday 1 st October	Holy Communion 8am and 9.30am.

Readings for next Sunday 1st October 2023

First Reading - Exodus 17: 1-7

Epistle - Philippians 2: 1-13

Gospel - Matthew 21: 23-32

Readers 8am - To be advised

Readers 9.30am - Denis and Liz Powell