

St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford
Sunday 18th February 2024

Today we celebrate Bella's Baptism



Vicar The Rev'd Grant Robertson

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Sentence - The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news. Mark 1:15

Collect - God of the new and eternal covenant, as the forty days of the great flood swept away the worlds corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life: grant to us, who are washed clean and born again in the saving flood of baptism, the wellspring of your grace, that your gift of new life may flourish once again; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Introit 597 God, whose almighty word

Gradual 381 Forty days and forty nights

Offertory 184 The kingdom of God

Closing 640 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

8.00am - Blue Book

9.30am - Baptism Liturgy

Readings for today Sunday 18th February

First Reading - Genesis 9: 8-17

Epistle - 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Gospel - Mark 1: 9-15

Readers - **8.00am** - Colleen and Riki Binns

Readers - **9.30am** - Megan and Karen

Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

1 Peter 3: 18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

We remember in our prayers - Lorraine, Anne, Tomas, Donna, Julie, Megan, Dianne, Noeline, Gillian, Barrie, Lesley, Lorna, Shobha, Pat, Hazel, Shelley, Cynthia, Logan, Kelvin, Margaret, Jeff, and Bryce. Residents and parishioners in Hartley Road, Havelock Avenue, Keldale Place, Kennedy Avenue, Knightsbridge Drive, Linwood Avenue.

Readings for next Sunday 25th February

First Reading - Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Epistle - Romans 4: 13-25

Gospel - Mark 8: 31-38

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Ulo and Liz O

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 20th	Selwyn Centre re commences today at 9.30am. Join us for fun, friendship and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 21st	10am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 22nd	10.00am Mainly Music. \$5.00 per family.
Sunday 25th	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a journey towards Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday.

Lent is a time when we as Christians prepare to celebrate the most important feast in the Church year, Easter.

Lent comes from the old English word, *Lente* which means lengthen.

In New Zealand with our long days and shorter nights we see all around us the bright colours and the growth of new life, signs of new beginnings and hope.

Lent; a journey of discovery towards a deeper relationship with God.

On this journey of 40 days, we are invited to take some time to reflect on the gift of life that is given to us and God's presence with us.

Lent is a time of renewal.

It is a time to detox, to rid ourselves of those things that bind us - impatience, resentment, anger, frustration, and to engage in positive things - forgiveness, love, kindness, compassion.

Lent invites us to do "something extra".

To make more space for God, taking five minutes to sit still and to breathe in and to breathe out God's life, to recite the "Our Father" and allow the words to take hold

of us. To fast from some of our favourite foods or doing something positive, giving a smile to someone.