

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

**Sunday 17th September 2023**

**Vicar** The Rev'd Grant Robertson  
**The Vicarage** 10 Otakau Road, Milford  
**Telephone:** 486 1010 **Parish Office:** 486 0668  
**Website:** [www.stpaulsmilford.co.nz](http://www.stpaulsmilford.co.nz)

**Sentence** - If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130: 34

**Collect** - O God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

<b>Introit</b>	321 Crown in with many crowns
<b>Gradual</b>	236 Father God in heaven
<b>Offertory</b>	188 There's a wideness in God's mercy
<b>Closing</b>	54 Now thank we all our God

**8am** - Blue Book

**9.30am** - NZPB 476

**Readings for today Sunday 17th September 2023**

**First Reading** - Exodus 14: 19-31

**Epistle** - Romans 14: 1-12

**Gospel** - Matthew 18: 21-35

**Readers 8am** - To be advised

**Readers 9.30am** - Chris and Christine Maud

## **Exodus 14: 19-31**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

## **Romans 14: 1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks

to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

### **Matthew 18: 21-35**

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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 Forrest Hill Road, Grenada Avenue, Hartley Road, Havelock Avenue, Keldale Place, Kennedy Avenue.

## **NEXT WEEK**

Tuesday 19th	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for friendship, fun and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 20th	10am Holy Communion. And morning tea.
Thursday 21st	Mainly Music 10am. Cost \$5.00.
Sunday 24th	Holy Communion 8am and 9.30am.

## **Readings for next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Vestry's fundraising Dinner**

A huge thank you to Karen and the team that helped make the fundraising dinner such a wonderful occasion. The food was great and those who attended had a great time, with lots of laughter and catching up with those we hadn't seen for some time. Thank you to those who donated generously items for the silent auction. Watch this space for the amount raised from this great event!