

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

Sunday 31st December 2023



Vicar The Rev'd Grant Robertson
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Sentence - My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. Luke 2: 30-32

Collect - Saving God, whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you and in the world may reflect his glory; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Introit 437 I cannot tell why he whom angels worship
Gradual 335 Come, O long expected Jesus
Offertory 359 Once in royal David's city
Closing 376 Songs of thankfulness and praise

9.30am - NZPB 476

Readings for today Sunday 31st December 2023

First Reading - Isaiah 61: 10 – 62:3

Epistle - Galatians 4: 4-7

Gospel - Luke 2: 22-40

Readers 9.30am - Ulo and Liz

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Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Galatians 4: 4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy

Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favour of God was upon him.

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 Selwyn Crescent, Shakespeare Road, Stanley Avenue, Stratford Avenue, Sudan Avenue, Sylvan Park Avenue.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 2nd	Selwyn Centre in recess until the 14 th February 2024.
Wednesday 3rd	10am Holy Communion. Resumes Wednesday 7 th February 2024.
Thursday 4th	Mainly Music. In recess until Thursday 8 th February 2024.
Sunday 7th	One Service at St Paul's 9.30am. Holy Communion.

Presentation of the Baby Jesus



Baby, God, Happy, Heart, Jesus, Joseph,
Love, Mary, Old, Promise, See, Simeon,
Song, Sword, Thanks