

St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford

Sunday 26th July

Rev'd Grant Robertson

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Sentence: Neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8: 38-39

Collect: God of mercy, you have blessed us beyond our dreams; you have set before us promises and perils beyond our understanding; help us to struggle and pray that the perils may be averted and your promises fulfilled. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen

Introit	184 The kingdom of God
Gradual	53 O God beyond all praising
Offertory	461 As we gather at your table
Closing	669 Lord be my vision

9.30am - NZPB 476

Readings for today Sunday 26th July

First Reading - Genesis 29:15-28

Epistle - Romans 8: 26-39

Gospel - Matthew 13: 31-33-44-52

Readers - Patrick and Gaylene

Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her." So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Romans 8: 26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groaning's too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will

affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13: 31-33-44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

We remember in our prayers those people in our parish in need of prayer. We also remember residence and parishioners in Rahopara Street, Seaview Road, Taumata Road, Becroft Drive, Belmont Terrace, Blakeborough Drive, Bond Crescent.

Financial News: Back in 2022 four parishioners kindly made loans amounting to \$95,000 to the parish to assist with paying for the recladding of the church building. These loans were for a 5-year period, with instalments being repaid annually. Vestry is delighted to advise that all 4 donors have now been fully repaid, within 4 years, thanks to the success of our Opportunity Shop.

Of course, the recladding project quickly became a major renovation costing almost \$700,000 and the Diocesan Council provided an interest-free loan of \$490,000 to the parish. On 01 August we will commence monthly repayments of this major loan over a 25 year period, again from the Opportunity Shop sales.

Readings for next Sunday 2nd August

First Reading - Genesis 32: 22-31

Epistle - Romans 9: 1-5

Gospel - 14: 13-21

Readers - To be advised

Next Week

Tuesday 28th	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for fellowship, fun and conversation. \$5.00.
Wednesday 29th	Mid - week 10.00am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 30th	10am Mainly Music. Resumes today. \$5.00 per family
Sunday 2nd	9.30am Holy Communion.

Upcoming Events for your diaries -

Blessing of windows - By the Bishop of Auckland on Sunday 30th August at the 9.30am service.

High Tea - We also hope to have a High Tea date to be advised possibly September.

Parish Quiz night - We will reschedule the quiz night. Probably later in the year maybe October/November when the weather gets warmer. Thank you to those who put your names down to attend.