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

Sunday 8th November

Rev'd Grant Robertson
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Sentence: Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24:42, 44

Collect: Father, let us not serve you grudgingly like slaves, but with the gladness of children who delight in you and rejoice in their work; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Introit	542 O God, our help in ages past
Gradual	317 At the name of Jesus
Offertory	471 Jesus, the joy of loving hearts
Closing	416 The strife is past, the battle done

9.30am - NZPB 476

Readings for this Sunday 8th
First Reading - Joshua 24: 1-3a-14-25
Epistle - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel - Matthew 25: 1-13
Readers - Chris and Christine Maud

Joshua 24: 1-3a-14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Caanan. Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are

among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25: 1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

We remember in our prayers those people in our parish in need of prayer. We also remember residents and parishioners in Pierce Road, Prestige Place, Prospect Terrace, Rangitoto Terrace, Richards Avenue, Saltburn Road, Selwyn Crescent.

Readings for next Sunday 15th
First Reading - Judges 4:1-7
Epistle - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel - Matthew 25:14-30
Readers - Ulo and Liz

Next Week

Tuesday 10th	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for fellowship, fun and conversation. $5.00.
Wednesday 11th	Mid - week 10.00am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 12th	10am Mainly Music. $5.00 per family.
Sunday 15th	Holy Communion 9.30am.