

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

Sunday 23rd November



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Sentence: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9: 9

Collect: Living Christ, you are risen from the dead. Love reigns! You are stronger than death; raise our eyes to see you as the new day dawns; for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Introit	59 Praise to the Lord, the almighty
Gradual	44 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Offertory	321 Crown him with many crowns
Closing	380 All glory, praise and honour

9.30am - NZPB 404

Readings for today Sunday 23rd November

First Reading - Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Epistle - Colossians 1: 11-20

Gospel - Luke 23: 33-43

Readers - Megan and Mary

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Colossians 1: 11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enable you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross

Luke 23: 33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

We remember in our prayers –Those people in our parish in need of prayer. We remember Lyn and Megan. We also remember residents and parishioners in Garmons Way, Heathcote Road, Katui Street, Midway Avenue, Parr Terrace, Rae Road.

High Tea A Date for your diary

Saturday 6th December – 2.30pm. \$40.00 per person. Please sign sheet at back of church. Bring family and friends. And have a happy afternoon. With very special food.

Readings for next Sunday 30th November - Advent One

First Reading - Isaiah 2: 1-5

Epistle - Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel - Matthew 24: 36-44

Readers - Patrick and Marion

Next Week

Tuesday 25th	Selwyn Centre at 9.30am. Join us for exercise, fellowship, fun, and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 26th	Holy Communion at 10.00am. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 27th	Mainly Music 10am \$5.00 per family.
Sunday 30th	Holy Communion 9.30am.

The Feast of Christ the King

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Christians around the world celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Though a relatively new addition to the Church calendar, this feast carries deep theological significance. It proclaims what the Church has always believed: that Jesus Christ is not only our Savior, but our King, reigning now and reigning forever.

This feast was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in response to the social, political, and cultural upheaval that followed World War I. In the years after the war, Europe was fractured. Millions had died or been wounded, economies had collapsed, and people were turning away from traditional institutions, including the Church. Secular ideologies were gaining influence, and dictators like Mussolini and Stalin were beginning to rise.

Pius XI recognized that people were placing their hope in political figures and ideologies, rather than in God. In response, he wrote the encyclical *Quas Primas* and established the Feast of Christ the King. His goal was to remind the faithful that Christ's authority extends beyond private religious devotion and into every part of our lives, personal, political, and societal. Christ is not merely King of our hearts; He is King of all creation.