

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

Sunday 25th February 2024

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Sentence - If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. Mark 8: 34

Collect - God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life: grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Introit	634 Will you come and follow me?
Gradual	626 Light of the minds that know him
Offertory	645 'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said
Closing	317 At the name of Jesus

8.00am - Lenten Liturgy

9.30am - Lenten Liturgy

Readings for today Sunday 25th February

First Reading - Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Epistle - Romans 4: 13-25

Gospel - Mark 8: 31-38

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Ulo and Liz

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Romans 4: 13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8: 31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,¹ will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 Lyttleton Avenue, Madison Place, Meadowvale Avenue, Merrifield Avenue, Newport Place.

Readings for next Sunday 3rd March

First Reading - Exodus 20: 1-17

Epistle -1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Gospel - John 2: 13-22

Readers - 8.00am -To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Liz Powell and Gaylene

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 27th	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for fun, friendship and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 28th	10am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 29th	10.00am Mainly Music. \$5.00 per family.
Sunday 3 rd March	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a journey towards Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday.

Lent is a time when we as Christians prepare to celebrate the most important feast in the Church year, Easter.

Lent comes from the old English word, *Lente* which means lengthen.

In New Zealand with our long days and shorter nights we see all around us the bright colours and the growth of new life, signs of new beginnings and hope.

Lent; a journey of discovery towards a deeper relationship with God.

On this journey of 40 days, we are invited to take some time to reflect on the gift of life that is given to us and God's presence with us.

Lent is a time of renewal.

It is a time to detox, to rid ourselves of those things that bind us - impatience, resentment, anger, frustration, and to engage in positive things - forgiveness, love, kindness, compassion.

Lent invites us to do "something extra".

To make more space for God, taking five minutes to sit still and to breathe in and to breathe out God's life, to recite the "Our Father" and allow the words to take hold

of us. To fast from some of our favourite foods or doing something positive, giving a smile to someone.