

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

Sunday 17th December 2023



Vicar The Rev'd Grant Robertson
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Sentence - Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of our Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God. Isaiah 61-1,2

Collect - Eternal God, you sent us John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Introit 335 Come, O long expected Jesus
Gradual 338 O come, O come, Emmanuel
Offertory 435 Hark the glad sound! - the Saviour comes
Closing 62 Tell out, my soul

8am - Advent Liturgy
9.30am - Advent Liturgy

Readings for today Sunday 17th December 2023

First Reading - Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Epistle - 1Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel - John 1; 6-8, 19-28

Readers 8am - To be advised

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 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.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless

at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1; 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord, as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 Richards Avenue, Saltburn Road, Selwyn Crescent, Shakespeare Road, Stanley Avenue, Stratford Avenue.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 19th	Selwyn Centre in recess until the 14 th February 2024.
Wednesday 20th	10am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea. Final for 2023. Resumes Wednesday 7 th February 2024.
Thursday 21st	Mainly Music. In recess until Thursday 8 th February 2024.
Sunday 24th	Christmas Eve - One Service at St Paul's 9.30am Nine Lessons and Carols (no communion)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
St Paul's Anglican Church - 10 Otakau Road Milford

CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday 24th DECEMBER
9.30am Nine Lessons and Carols (no communion)

**5.00pm Christingle Children &
Family Service (with communion).**

11.00pm
Candles, Carols & Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday 25th DECEMBER
8.00am - 9.30am Carols & Holy Communion

Vicar Rev'd Grant Robertson

COME & JOIN US

Please note in your diaries.

During January there will be **ONE Sunday** service at St Paul's
at **9.30am**.

Milford Baptist Church public carol singing...

You are invited to join with the Milford Baptist church this Tuesday December 19th starting at 4 pm (it is expected to go for one hour) in Milford, right next to New World on Kitchener Street. It's fun and an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas, and it's appreciated by the locals.

Anglican Trust for Women and Children ...

Please don't forget to bring your gift contributions for the children by next Sunday. Gifts will be held by ATWC and given to the children during the year.