

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

Sunday 1st March – Second Sunday of Lent



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Sentence: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

Collect: Come Holy Spirit, to all baptised in your name, that we may turn to good whatever lies ahead. Give us passion, give us fire; make us transform the world from what it is, to what you have created it to be. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introit	71	To God be the glory!
Gradual	494	This is the truth which we proclaim
Offertory	324	Name of all majesty
Closing	601	Lift high the cross

9.30am - Lenten Liturgy

Readings for next Sunday 1st March

First Reading - Genesis 12: 1-4a

Epistle - Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

Gospel - John 3: 1-17

Readers - Patrick and Marion

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 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.

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being

born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Next Week - March

Tuesday 3 rd	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for fellowship, fun and conversation. \$5.00.
Wednesday 4 th	Mid - week 10.00am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 5 th	Mainly Music 10am today. \$5.00 per family.
Sunday 8 th	9.30am Holy Communion. Third Sunday in Lent.

Readings for next Sunday 8th March

First Reading - Exodus 17: 1-7

Epistle - Romans 5: 1-11

Gospel - John 4: 5-43

Readers - Ulo and Liz

Upcoming Events for your diaries -

- *Annual General Meeting - Sunday 12th April during 9.30am service.
- *Blessing of windows by the Bishop of Auckland on Sunday 30th August at the 9.30am service.
- *We are organising a quiz night in May - date to be confirmed.
- *We also hope to have a High Tea - possibly September.

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 is 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.