

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

Sunday 17th August 2025

Rev'd Grant Robertson

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Sentence - 'Is not my word like fire,' says the Lord, 'and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?' Jeremiah 23:29

Collect - Everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking sin and all that hinders us, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Introit	668 Jesus call us! in the tumult
Gradual	495 Abide with me
Offertory	479 Put peace into each other's hands
Closing	669 Lord, be my vision

9.30am - NZPB 476

Readings for today Sunday 17th August

First Reading - Isaiah 5: 1-7

Epistle - Hebrews 11: 29 –12:2

Gospel - Luke 12: 49-56

Readers - Chris and Christine Maud

Isaiah 5: 1-7

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

Hebrews 11: 29 –12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were

sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke12: 49 56

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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 Parr Terrace, Rae Road, Rahopara Street, Seaview Road, Taumata Road.

Next Week

Tuesday 19th Selwyn Centre at 9.30am. Join us for exercise, fellowship, fun, and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.

Wednesday 20th Holy Communion at 10.00am. Followed by morning tea.

Thursday 21st Mainly Music 10.00am. Cost \$5.00 per family.

Sunday 24th Holy Communion 9.30am.

Dates for your diaries – more information to follow.

Friday 7th November - Quiz night in the parish hall.

Friday 21st November 11.30am - Op Shop thank you

Saturday 6th December - High tea 2.30pm.

Do you need some painting done at home? -

In a previous notice we included a message about the great work that the painter from the Korean Church has done at St Paul's. If you, or someone you know would like some painting work done, we can recommend John to you. It would be best to phone John's son, Simon (who speaks fluent English), on 021 164 2830.

Help required at Mainly Music -

We need some help on Thursday mornings from 9am to 11.30am. As one of our helpers is away for 8 weeks. If you are able to help please let Grant know.

Readings for next Sunday 24th August

First Reading - Deuteronomy 18: 15-18

Epistle - Revelations 21: 9b-14

Gospel - John: 35-51

Readers - Megan and Marion