

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

Sunday 8th February

Rev'd Grant Robertson

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Sentence: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 16

Collect: We praise you, God, that the light of Christ shines in our darkness and is never overcome; show us the way we may go to the eternal day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introit	184 The kingdom of God
Gradual	319 Christ triumphant, ever reigning
Offertory	668 Jesus calls us! – in the tumult
Closing	592 Church of God, elect and glorious

9.30am - NZPB 404

Readings for today Sunday 8th February

First Reading - Isaiah 58:1-9a

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Gospel - Matthew 5:13-20

Readers - Sarah and Edward

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out; do not hold back! lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Matthew 5: 13-20

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

We remember in our prayers –Those people in our parish in need of prayer. We also remember residents and parishioners in Sudan Avenue, Sylvan Park Avenue, Thornton Road, Tobruk Road, Trafalgar Road.

Readings for next Sunday 15th February

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel - Matthew 5:21-37

Readers - Patrick and Gaylene

Next Week

Tuesday 10th	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for fellowship, fun and conversation. \$5.00
Wednesday 11th	Mid - week 10.00am Holy Communion
Thursday 12th	Mainly Music resumes today - Thursday 12th February
Sunday 15th	9.30am Holy Communion.