

## The Vicar writes...

Welcome to our worship today.

Recently I was challenged by a parishioner about a sermon. Apparently I had misread the accepted intention of the passage, and as such my preaching was not as they would have expected. I seemed (in their eyes) to miss the intention of the writer.

What I had done was offer my own thoughts on the reading, and I stated early in my sermon that these were what I felt as I read the pericope. Over the preceding days I had been thinking about the passage, so when I came to put my thoughts down on paper, it was with the events of the week, the actual passage, plus my own thoughts in mind.

I think that anyone offering an explanation on scripture, must be allowed and encouraged to think freely on the piece. I also think that this is not only important in the way we refer to scripture, but the way in which we live our lives as Christians. One of the great things that we as an Anglican Church accept, is that God wants us to be a free thinking people. There is great danger in not allowing our minds and our relationship with God to wander.

These days (because of the 3 year cycle of our readings) I can often remember what I spoke about last time I preached on a passage. I am often surprised at how differently I look at a particular piece 3 years down the track. I think this is good, because it affirms in my own mind the way in which my relationship with God has changed and grown over time.

We believe as a Christian people that our relationship with God is not only inspired by scripture, but transformed through it. We should be encouraged to let our minds assimilate what God is trying to communicate to us in our bible readings.

So in short I think that if one wants to know what John Stott, Tom Wright or William Barclay thinks, the best thing to do is to read their commentary on a passage. Hopefully it will enlighten us with a sense of their relationship with God at that time. I hope that these guys allow us to examine scripture more closely and in doing so encourage us to draw our own conclusions as to how Christ is working amongst us in the world.

So I think that parishioner for drawing their thoughts to my attention. Sometimes part of the mystery of our God relationship is in the fact that Christians do disagree, but in doing so reminds us of the fact that, "we who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

Have a good week.

Mark

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9:00am-3.00 pm

### Parish Directory

Vicar	The Reverend Mark Sullivan <a href="mailto:vicar@stmarks.org.nz">vicar@stmarks.org.nz</a> 529 1496 027 475 9946
Associate Priest	The Reverend James Withers <a href="mailto:priest@stmarks.org.nz">priest@stmarks.org.nz</a> 021 238 1800
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## PARISH OF ST MARK, REMUERA



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH FOR 163 YEARS  
1847 – 2010

**Sunday 22 August 2010**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Celebrant & Preacher : The Vicar**

**8am Eucharist  
(ANZPB pg 404)**

Liturgist: Richard Lamb

**9.30am Family Eucharist  
(ANZPB pg 404)**

Liturgist: Margaret Lamb

Servers: Maddie Lamb,  
Tim Sullivan

**Today's readers:**

Richard Lamb, Don Dormer,  
James Laurenson, Peter Brocklebank  
Richard Lamb, Margaret Lamb

**Prayers:**

### Order of the Eucharist

Setting: Holy Communion in E-flat - *David Childs*

Sentence: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. They will be like trees planted by the waterside that do not fear when heat comes, and are not anxious in the year of drought.

*Jeremiah 17:7,8*

Collect

**Jesus, you turned death into life, turned defeat into victory. Grant that with your help we may raise our expectations and achieve what is yet impossible..**

**Amen**

Gathering Hymn: **38** Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm: 71: 1-6 (Chant: George Bennett)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12: 18-29

Gospel Hymn: **603** King of glory, king of peace

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Offertory Hymn: **536** Your hand, O God, has guided  
(omit v4)

Communion Motet: God be in my head (*Henry Walford Davies*)

Final Hymn: **#19 on St Mark's Hit List**



### Welcome to our worship!

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please fill in a yellow card on the pew and give it to one of our welcomers. To the left of the pulpit, is a ramp giving access to the communion rail. All the Baptised and those who normally take communion in their own Church are welcome to join us for the Eucharist, regardless of denomination. Others are welcome to come and receive a blessing.

*Please stay for refreshments after the 9.30am service.*

## Services during the coming week

Weekdays:	8:45am	Daily Office
Wednesday:	10:00am	Holy Communion & morning tea
Sunday	8.00 am	Eucharist
	9.30 am	Choral Eucharist

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### NOTICES

#### "The Perils of P"

An interesting and informative evening was held on Wednesday night in the Parish centre. Our sincere thanks to Simon Moore and Paul La Franchie for their valuable time and efforts. Thanks also to all who attended and to those who contributed supper.

#### Envelope Giving Reminder

**Could parishioners please enter their Parish Recording Number on their Donation envelope to ensure that their donation is credited correctly for their annual tax acknowledgement.**

#### Bible Reading

The Vicar has started Bible reading group in the Vicarage on Thursday mornings at 9.30am. It's not too late to join. All are welcome to attend.

#### Bible Studies

The Vicar will be holding 5 fortnightly Bible studies series based on a series of DVDs by an American Old Testament scholar, Ray Vander Laan. This will be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday nights in the Vicarage commencing **6 September 2010** (*please note changed date*). The first is entitled "Standing at the Crossroads"-(Tel Gezor). All are most welcome.

#### Pink Star Challenge: Guides and Brownies

The Guides and Brownies of Tai Tokerau, together with other groups in the upper North Island, are attempting to enter the Guinness Book of World Records by collecting bras. If you have any to spare, please bring them to the office, from where the St Mark's Guides and Brownies will collect.

#### Stamps for Board of Missions

We are still collecting used postage stamps. Dick Vernon has kindly offered to take over from George Marshall and is looking forward to finding the box in the church porch full (or leave in the office.)

#### Recital

Please enter 2pm Sunday 29 August 2010 in your diary to hear the inaugural 2010 Music Recital series concert at St Mark's Church. Jeffrey Chang, one of our talented choir members, is giving a recital. A special rate for parishioners of \$10 is payable at the door.

#### St Marks Road and Motorway closure

On Sunday 29 August 2010, St Marks Road will be closed from 7am to 5pm to allow pedestrian access to the St Marks Rd onramp for a once-only opportunity to walk across the new Newmarket Viaduct. This will create parking and access difficulties for those attending our services, so please allow extra time. The motorway will be closed the following weekend of September 4 & 5 with major traffic disruption as well.

#### Parish Events Calendar August/September 2010

25 August	7.00pm	Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore induction as Dean of Auckland at Holy Trinity Cathedral
29 August	2.00pm	Music Recital- Jeffrey Chang - Church
2 September	9.30am	Bible Studies - Vicarage
6 September	7.30pm	DVD Bible studies - Vicarage
26 September	9.30am	Laurie Sheffield Memorial Sermon - Reverend Harry Hicks

## Today's Readings: A View from the Pew

**Psalm 103 1-8; Isa 58:9b-14,  
Hebrews 12: 18-29, Luke 13:10-17**

### BE WATCHFUL

Last week we shared the recollection of St Mary, the mother of Jesus and her humble obedience to the call of our God.

Today we are called to remember the duty we owe to our heavenly Father for all he has supplied for our daily needs and to be faithful to his directions.

Our Psalm 103 begins, "Praise the Lord, O my soul," and goes on to list all the wonders of his care, reminding us that, "the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." (v 13)

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the way God's people do not follow his guidance. They do not fast properly, share food with the poor, or provide shelter to the wanderer, yet continually demand his help. If they do choose to abide in his care, the difference in their lives will be remarkable. (Isaiah 58:7)

It is interesting that Paul points out to the Hebrews that the mountain they now come to is not like the former one which could not be touched for fear of death. "The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear' ".(Hebrews 12:21) Now they come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God (v23). They must be careful not to refuse him who warned them when on earth, now he warns them from heaven. We are to worship with reverence and awe "for our God is a consuming fire."(v29)

We learn of another of the Sabbath miracles of Jesus when he saw the woman crippled for eighteen years, unable to straighten up she was so bent over. Jesus told her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her and she straightened up and praised God.

This is one of the few times we hear that Jesus healed by touch. It was more usual for him to heal by the power of his word. For us, we have the promise Jesus gave that he would always be with us. His Holy Spirit is in dwelling with us, guiding us daily in all the puzzling situations in which we inadvertently land ourselves. The confidence this engenders is our greatest privilege and a treasure we value beyond measure.

We can only echo the opening of today's Psalm with thanksgiving "Praise the Lord, O my soul."



### Notices (continued)

#### Board Required

John and Elizabeth Thomson's son Blair lives in Japan and has a young friend, Kenji Ishimori needing temporary board with a NZ family from mid September for several months. He is 26 years old and he is hoping to improve his English whilst attending language school in central Auckland. He would be prepared to pay board. Please contact Blair, blairthomson@gmail.com for any more details.

#### More Knitters needed

Eight St Marks knitters are already knitting garments for needy babies. Thanks to a kind donation of wool, we need more volunteers to knit either peggy squares or baby wear. Please call Shiela 358 2658