



# MARKINGS

## St Mark's Anglican Parish Te Aroha

**Archdeacon:** Ven Val Riches

**Priest-in-Charge:** Rev. Geoff Lamason 0220807297

**Permission to Officiate:** Rev. Joan Power 8847058

**Permission to Officiate:** Rev. Ian Harrop 8849292

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*Knowing † Sharing Christ's Aroha*

**10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**  
**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THEME:** Acting in faith is a deliberate decision.

**SENTENCE:** The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
*John 3:14-15.*

**COLLECT:**

**Most merciful God,  
by the passion of your Son Jesus Christ  
you delivered us from the power of darkness;  
grant that through faith in him  
who suffered on the cross  
we may be found acceptable in your sight,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**



**READINGS INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Numbers 21:4-9**. This episode from the story of the Exodus reflects ideas of sympathetic magic, which was practised in Egypt. The Gospel reading draws a parallel with Christ on the cross.

**Ephesians 2:1-10**. In the opening of his general letter, Ephesians, Paul tells how God has accomplished his purpose by making our salvation depend solely on trusting God's grace.

**Psalms 107:1-3,17-22**. The steadfast Lord heals those who are sick who cry to him.

**John 3:14-21**. The early chapters of John show Jesus superseding things: ritual water becomes gospel wine; the temple becomes the temple of Christ's body; Nicodemus learns about new birth.

***Next week's readings:***

*Jeremiah 31:31-34. Psalm 51:1-12, or 119:1-16. Hebrews 5:5-10. John 12:20-33.*

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<b>MAR</b>	<b>COMMEMORATIONS</b>	<b>EVENTS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Sun 10</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday NZ Wars began at Waitara, 1860.	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason Domain Day
<b>Mon 11</b>	Taranaki Anniversary Day. Commonwealth Day. Japanese Earthquake & Tsunami 2011.	
<b>Tue 12</b>	Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604. Kereopa & Manihera of Taranaki, Martyrs at Turangi, 1847.	
<b>Wed 13</b>		<b>10am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Fri 15</b>	Mosque Shooting in Christchurch 2019.	
<b>Sun 17</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Passion Sunday	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason

**We pray for** Doreen, Cilla, Jemima, Jenny, Elaine, Gloria & Brian, Beverley, Tom & Corolyn, Jann and her family, Chrissy, Rori.

*If you wish to add a name to the prayer list for the next 4 weeks, please contact Geoff (022 080 7297,) or Pat (8849182)*

**IN THE MISSION FIELD we pray for** the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea: Theological Education.

**IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND we pray for**

- **The Province:** General Secretary and General Synod Staff.
- **Our Diocese:** Clergy, People and Communities of Okato CP, Orakau, Otorohanga.
- **Our Community:** Family Support Agencies, Relationship Services..
- **Our Parish:** Brass Cleaning Guild.



**ST MARK'S MATTERS;**

*Prayer and the oil of anointing are always available after services – just ask the priest or members of the healing team.*



† **VISITING:** If you know that a parishioner is unwell, please contact Geoff 022 080 7297, or Joan 884 7058.

**BIRTHDAY: Pat Elley today!**

*Thought for the week: The road to heaven is a one-way street.*

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

**Sun 10 Domain Day**

**Mon 18** 1.30pm Vestry

**Thu 21** 1.30pm Fellowship

**Fri 22** 1.30pm Craft Group

**Thu 28** 6.30pm Foot washing

**Fri 29** **9am Good Friday Walk of Witness**, at St Joseph's  
**11.30am-12.30pm** Easter Vigil

**Sun 31** **10am Easter Day Eucharist**

## EASTER SERVICES

**The Annual Footwashing Service** will be held on Maundy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

The Ministers' Association of Te Aroha is organising the **Good Friday Walk of Witness**, beginning at St Joseph's at **9.00 am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**. The walk finishes at the Domain, followed by hot cross buns and fellowship at Mountain View Apostolic Church.

On Good Friday the **Easter Vigil** will follow at St Mark's at 11.30am for 1 hour.

On **Easter Day, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30am** there will be a half-hour **Dawn Service** at Mountain View Apostolic Church followed by tea and coffee.

## FROM VESTRY:

- The Parish AGM will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 after the 10am service. At this meeting we will receive a report from the Restoration Team, and elect its members.
- June will produce a **Transmitter** before Easter, please have copy to her by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**.
- December Minutes are on the notice board.

## DOMAIN DAY - SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 - TODAY!

If you have brought baking to church, and can't get to the Domain, Mick will take your contributions for you. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help. We would love to see you so do call in. Remember the Restoration Team is also selling a raffle in the Pavilion.



New Year – how about trying a new hobby? St Mark's Bowling Club will be starting up again on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, and welcomes new members. Just turn up at 6.45pm and they will teach you all you need to know and will provide you with all the equipment you will need.

## FROM THE RESTORATION TEAM:

One of the restoration group has offered to be at the church during Domain Day for visitors to investigate. A big THANK YOU to all those who helped clean the church on Wednesday. Restoration grocery Raffle is in the Bowling Pavilion today.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE RESTORATION TEAM.**

God of compassion and grace;  
grant wisdom, insight, and creativity to the team as they  
work to raise funding for the restoration of St Mark's  
Church, Te Aroha. May they be encouraged by our and  
the wider community's support and co-operation, be it  
be through word or action, so that together St Mark's  
becomes a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who live in our district.  
This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



## **A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Compassionate and gracious God we ask for your intervention, through  
men, women, and organisations of authority, to restore peace in nations  
engaged in armed conflict throughout each continent of our world. Protect  
and sustain all who are bringing medical aid, food, shelter, and comfort to  
the innocent victims of such conflict. This we ask in the name of Jesus, The  
Prince of Peace. Amen.

## **THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS.**

One of the New Testament's most familiar passages opens with a reference to one of the  
Old's most obscure; both hinge on a sign 'lifted up' for maximum visibility, and the need to  
respond with trusting obedience. As Moses' contemporaries needed to believe and look at  
the bronze serpent to be healed from snake bites, so everyone needs to look towards Christ,  
God's crucified, life-giving gift of love, with faith. The initiative is God's; the consequences  
are serious, but the choice – accepting the gracious offer, or staying unexposed and  
unreconciled in the apparent comfort of the shadows – is ours. *RSCM Sunday by Sunday*

## **Psalm 107:1-3,17-22.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**2 Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has  
redeemed you from your enemies.**

3 For he has gathered the exiles from many lands, from east and west,  
from north and south.

**17 Some were fools; they rebelled and suffered for their sins.**

18 They couldn't stand the thought of food, and they were knocking on  
death's door.

**19 "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from  
their distress.**

20 He sent out his word and healed them, snatching them from the door of  
death.

**21 Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful  
things he has done for them.**

22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and sing joyfully about his  
glorious acts.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**