



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

4th FEBRUARY 2024

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

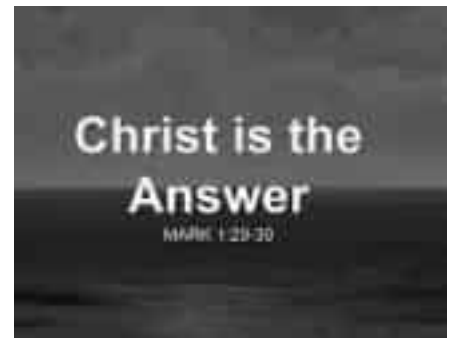
THEME: Enabled to serve.

SENTENCE: Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

COLLECT:

**Almighty God,
you have called us to serve you,
yet without your grace
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



READINGS INTRODUCTIONS:

Isaiah 40:21-31. At the end of the exile in 537 BC an anonymous author added to the eighth century book of the prophet Isaiah. He offers words of comfort and encouragement for those now returning to Israel.

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c. The Lord heals the broken-hearted.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23. Paul wrote his first letter to the church in Corinth in the early 50s AD. He himself had founded the church in Corinth, and in his letter emphasises his apostolic authority.

Mark 1:29-39. In Mark's Gospel, the ministry of Jesus begins with his baptism by John. The signs of the presence of the kingdom of God include the healing of the sick, but the spoken message is also important to Jesus.

Next week's readings:

2 Kings 5:1-14. Psalm 30. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Mark 1:40-45

Visit our website – www.stmarkstearoha.weebly.com

FEB	COMMEMORATIONS	EVENTS THIS WEEK
Sun 4	5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10am Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason
Mon 5	The Martyrs of Japan, 1597	
Tue 6	Waitangi Day	
Wed 7		10am Holy Communion
Fri 9		1.30pm Craft Group
Sun 11	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10am Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason

We pray for Jemima, Jenny, Elaine, Gloria & Brian, Beverley, Jaimee & her family, Tom & Carolyn, Jann, her son Dan & son-in-law Maarten, 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 Diocese of Polynesia – Water For All.

IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND we pray for

- **The Province:** the Diocese of Nelson.
- **Our Diocese:** Central Taranaki Region; Clergy, People and Communities of Eltham-Kaponga, Manaia, Opunake, Stratford.
- **Our Community:** Police and Justice Agencies.
- **Our Parish:** Wardens, Restoration Team.

BIRTHDAYS:

Jose Clark on 7th



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.



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Wed 7	10 am Holy Communion
Fri 9	1.30pm Craft Group
Wed 14	10 am Holy Communion
Thu 15	1.30pm Women's Fellowship
Mon 19	1.30pm Vestry
Wed 21	10am Holy Communion
Fri 23	1.30pm Craft Group
Wed 28	10am Holy Communion

From Vestry:

- The Parish AGM will be held on Sunday 21st April, 2024 after the 10am service.
- Domain Day will be on Sunday 10th March 2024

RESTORATION NEWS from June:

We still have ten Peace Memorial cups available. There were only 50 ordered so they could be a collectors' item in years to come.

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.

Three tensions emerge as Jesus' reputation grows. One is the balance between healing and teaching; the curing of Simon's mother-in-law triggers many similar requests, but Jesus affirms preaching as his priority. Secondly, he engages with demonic forces, who recognise his unique identity but must be silenced so that he can make himself known on God's terms. The third tension concerns geography; Jesus could have filled his time in one location, but knows he needs to travel widely.

RSCM Sunday by Sunday

Psalm 30.

A psalm of David.

1 I will exalt you, Lord, for you rescued me.

You refused to let my enemies triumph over me.

**2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you restored my health.**

3 You brought me up from the grave,[a] O Lord.

You kept me from falling into the pit of death.

**4 Sing to the Lord, all you godly ones!
Praise his holy name.**

5 For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favour lasts a lifetime!

Weeping may last through the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

**6 When I was prosperous, I said,
“Nothing can stop me now!”**

7 Your favour, O Lord, made me as secure as a mountain.

Then you turned away from me, and I was shattered.

**8 I cried out to you, O Lord.
I begged the Lord for mercy, saying,**

9 “What will you gain if I die,
if I sink into the grave?

Can my dust praise you?

Can it tell of your faithfulness?

**10 Hear me, Lord, and have mercy on me.
Help me, O Lord.”**

11 You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.

You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy,

**12 that I might sing praises to you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!**

Psalm 147 1-11,19-20.

¹ Praise the Lord!

How good to sing praises to our God!

How delightful and how fitting!

**² The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem
and bringing the exiles back to Israel.**

³ He heals the broken-hearted
and bandages their wounds.

**⁴ He counts the stars
and calls them all by name.**

⁵ How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!
His understanding is beyond comprehension!

⁶ The Lord supports the humble,

but he brings the wicked down into the dust.

⁷ Sing out your thanks to the Lord;
sing praises to our God with a harp.

⁸ **He covers the heavens with clouds,
provides rain for the earth,
and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures.**

⁹ He gives food to the wild animals
and feeds the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰ **He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse
or in human might.**

¹¹ No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him,
those who put their hope in his unfailing love.

¹⁹ **He has revealed his words to Jacob,
his decrees and regulations to Israel.**

²⁰ He has not done this for any other nation;
they do not know his regulations.

Praise the LORD!

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



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

*Thought for the week:
Pray for a good harvest, but continue to hoe.*