



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

18th FEBRUARY 2024

1st SUNDAY IN LENT

THEME: Our God, the covenant keeper.

SENTENCE: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news.
Mark 1:15

COLLECT:

**Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ
fasted forty days in the wilderness;
give us grace to direct our lives
in obedience to your Spirit;
and as you know our weakness
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**



READINGS INTRODUCTIONS:

Genesis 9:8-17. The Jewish stories about the beginnings of the world, told in the book of Genesis, include the idea of the trustworthiness of the seasons after the great flood.

Psalms 25:1-10. Prayer for guidance and for deliverance.

1 Peter 3:18-22. The first letter of Peter is probably by a disciple of his. He encourages the Christians in Asia Minor to stand firm, knowing that even the dead are held in Christ's love and care.

Mark 1:9-15. Mark's Gospel was the first to be written. It opens, not with the story of the birth of Jesus, but with the beginning of Jesus' ministry from his baptism by John in the Jordan.

Next week's readings:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16. Psalm 22:23-31. Romans 4:13-25. Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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FEB	COMMEMORATIONS	EVENTS THIS WEEK
Sun 18	1 st Sunday in Lent	10am Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason
Mon 19		1.30pm Vestry
Tue 20	Saints and Martyrs of Africa	
Wed 21		10am Holy Communion
Thu 22	Confession of St Peter Christchurch Earthquake 2011 Cyclone Winston hits Fiji, 2016	
Fri 23	Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.156	1.30pm Craft Group
Sun 25	2 nd Sunday in Lent	10am Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason

We pray for Jemima, Jenny, Elaine, Gloria & Brian, Beverley, Jaimee & her family, 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 Mission Agencies: Anglican Chinese Mission in NZ, Anglican Alliance London, Bible Society of NZ, Missions Interlink.

IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND we pray for

- **The Province:** Bishopdale Theological College.
- **Our Diocese:** Selwyn Wilson Carlile Home, Tainui Home, University of Waikato, Waikato Institute of Technology, Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki.
- **Our Community:** Industry – Management and Labour..
- **Our Parish:** Food Bank and contributors.

BIRTHDAYS:

Brian Evison on 19th
Geoff Lamason on 19th



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

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 - SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2024

Once again we have been allocated the old Bowling Pavilion, where we will sell food, tea and coffee. On the day we will need plenty of biscuits and/or muffins, to supplement sandwiches for lunches.

All contributions will be welcome!

We will need help at the pavilion on the day, to set things up, to sell the food etc, and to clean up at about 2pm. Please add your name to the list at the back.

Thank you in advance.

RESTORATION NEWS from June:

The Restoration Team advises that the Peace Memorial coffee mugs are available at the ~~Information~~ Centre now. They will also be running another grocery raffle to be drawn on 10 March at Domain Day. Contributions of everyday food items will be welcome.

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.

In recording the transition from John the Baptist's ministry to Christ's, Mark records how Jesus himself underwent John's baptism, with a heavenly voice hinting at messianic roles of anointed ruler and suffering servant (echoing Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42 respectively.) It is against this backdrop that Mark tells how Jesus handled two kinds of conflict. One was temptation by Satan – an encounter initiated, surprisingly, by God's Spirit. The second was John's imprisonment by Herod, which Jesus took as his cue not to draw back but to begin his own proclamation of the good news of God's imminent kingly reign. *RSCM Sunday by Sunday*

Psalm 25. A psalm of David.

1 O Lord, I give my life to you.

2 I trust in you, my God!

**Do not let me be disgraced,
or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.**

3 No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced,
but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.

**4 Show me the right path, O Lord;
point out the road for me to follow.**

5 Lead me by your truth and teach me,
for you are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in you.

**6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love,
which you have shown from long ages past.**

7 Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.
Remember me in the light of your unfailing love,
for you are merciful, O Lord.

**8 The Lord is good and does what is right;
he shows the proper path to those who go astray.**

9 He leads the humble in doing right,
teaching them his way.

**10 The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness
all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.**

**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.**

Those who knew Wendy and Eric Russell of St David's will be saddened to learn of Eric's recent death in Christchurch, and may like to remember Wendy in their prayers.

The first Community Dinner will be at St David's Church Centre on Friday 1st March at 5.30pm. Entry is free, but donations are welcome. See poster for more details.

Thought for the week: ASAP – Always Say A Prayer.