



# 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*

**25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**THEME:** The focus of our faith.

**SENTENCE:** If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.

*Mark 8:34*

**COLLECT:**

**Servant God,  
grant us opportunity,  
give us willingness to serve you day by day;  
that what we do  
and how we bear each other's burdens,  
may be our sacrifice to you.  
This we ask  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**



**READINGS INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16.** The story of our faith begins in the Jewish tradition with the covenant made between God and Abraham. Both Abram and Sarai receive new names, Abraham and Sarah, to signify their new status.

**Romans 4:13-25.** About 58 AD Paul wrote to the church in Rome, outlining his understanding of the gospel that puts all humanity right with God. A key element is our trust in what God has done for us in Christ.

**Psalms 22:23-31.** Fear and praise the Lord; proclaim his deliverance to those as yet unborn.

**Mark 8:31-38.** Near the end of his ministry in Galilee, according to Mark, Jesus is acclaimed by Peter as the Messiah. Jesus reminds Peter that that will entail suffering for the sake of God's love.

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

*Exodus 20:1-17. Psalm 19. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. John 2:13-22*

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<b>FEB/MAR</b>	<b>COMMEMORATIONS</b>	<b>EVENTS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Sun 25</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason
<b>Tue 27</b>	George Herbert, 1633, and all saintly Parish Priests	
<b>Wed 28</b>		<b>10am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Fri 1</b>	David, Patron Saint of Wales	
<b>Sat 2</b>	Carl Sylvius Völkner, Priest and Mokomoko. Rangatira, Opotiki, 1865, symbols for reconciliation	
<b>Sun 3</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Wesley Day	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion Rev Geoff Lamason

**We pray for** Cilla, 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** the Church in Pakistan – the witness and ministry of the Church in times of opportunity, discrimination and challenge.

**IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND we pray for**

- **The Province:** Waikato and Taranaki Diocesan Office Staff.
- **Our Diocese:** Waikato Diocesan Trust Board, Taranaki Anglican Trust Board.
- **Our Community:** The Business Community and those working in it.
- **Our Parish:** Te Aroha Ministers' Association.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Joan Power on 2<sup>nd</sup> March



**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.



The first Community Dinner for 2024 will be at St David's Church Centre on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 5.30pm. Entry is free, but donations are welcome.

See poster on noticeboard for more details.

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

**Wed 28** 10am Holy Communion

### MAR

**Fri 8** Craft Group

**Sun 10** Domain Day

**Mon 18** 1.30pm Vestry

**Thu 21** 1.30pm Fellowship

**Fri 22** 1.30pm Craft Group

### 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.
- Gayle Bebbington, Vicar's Warden, has agreed to be our Health and Safety Officer as well. Any accidents or near misses should be reported to her so she can ensure our building is as safe as possible for us all.
- Guttering and spouting on the south side of the hall have been repaired.
- The Vicarage is in good repair and meets the Healthy Homes Standard.
- June will produce a **Transmitter** before Easter, please have copy to her by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**.

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

**Only 2 weeks away!**

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.**

### 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.



## 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 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.

The prime question of Mark's Gospel – who is Jesus? – has just been answered in messianic terms by Peter; henceforth Jesus teaches his followers what his messiahship entails. He begins to speak plainly (and in increasingly graphic detail) about suffering and death, which his disciples find incomprehensible and unpalatable. Yet he is adamant to everyone offering him allegiance: his call is all-surpassing, all-consuming and uncompromising. To call him 'Lord' is to die day by day to the old way of life, with its values, goals and pleasures; and for some, as for him, it will also entail a literal death.

*RSCM Sunday by Sunday*

## Psalm 22:23-31

23 Praise the Lord, all you who fear him! Honour him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

**24 For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help.**

25 I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfil my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

**26 The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the Lord will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.**

27 The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

**28 For royal power belongs to the Lord. He rules all the nations.**

29 Let the rich of the earth feast and worship. Bow before him, all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as dust.

**30 Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.**

31 His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done.

**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.**

*Thought for the week: Worry ends where faith begins.*