



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 3 December 2017



**Theme:** Jesus is coming!  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Nick Ippolito  
**Readings:** Jeremiah 29:4 - 11, Mark 13:24 - 37

**Sentence:**

O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Lead us by your truth and teach us, for you are the God who saves us.  
*- Psalm 25:1,5*

**Morning Advent Candle Lighting:**

As the people of God,  
we search for hope...

*Light the first Advent candle*

Come quickly to shine on us;  
come quickly to brighten our path;  
come quickly to restore our hope.

**Prayer for the day:**

Come, O come Emmanuel,  
you are the way the truth and the life;  
you are the true vine, the bread of life.  
Come living Saviour,  
come to your world which waits for you.

**Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## *Reflections...*



### **Grace in the midst of controversy**

The Anglican Communion, our province (Aotearoa and Pacifica) and our Nelson Diocese has been discussing and praying about the issue of homosexuality for some years now. More specifically we have discussed gay marriage, same sex relationship blessings and the ordination of practicing gay people. There has been a lot of talk and no decisions have been made.

One very great concern in the midst of all this is that of church unity. No-one wants to leave, or be pushed out, of the Anglican family. No one.

On the 10 March 2018 our Diocese will have a one day Special Synod. The sole purpose of that meeting is to discuss Motion 29.

Motion 29 will be discussed at General Synod, I think in April. Our Diocesan General Synod representatives will present the views of our Diocese. It has been formulated by a group chosen by General Synod. That group has included our Bishop Richard.

Our Parish Synod representatives will represent your views at the Diocesan One Day Synod in March. That means we need to know what you think about Motion 29.

At this point most of you will not even have heard of it.

Simply put, Motion 29 is a pragmatic suggestion, to our national church, of a way to deal with the blessing of same-sex relationships. The suggestion aims to hold together our national church in the midst of widely-differing viewpoints.

Motion 29 suggests that clergy be allowed to bless same sex relationships in dioceses where their bishop gives permission. No one will be forced to conduct same sex blessings if they believe it is wrong. No one will be permitted to carry out same sex marriages.

Same sex marriage is not addressed in this motion. Neither is the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

For some people Motion 29 is one step too far. For others it doesn't go anywhere far enough. We all have different opinions and theologies on

the bigger issues. We all have people we love who are affected by the bigger issues too.

As I wrote above, our Synod Representatives represent you at the upcoming One Day Synod. They do not represent themselves. Our Synod Representatives are John Palmer, Dave Pritchard and Michaela Ross.

Over the next 3 months our parish will go through a process of information and feedback about Motion 29. We are taking it seriously because if it does not go through, it is very likely indeed, that our national church will split. (After years of arguments many, from both ends of the spectrum, are tired and want something resolved.)

Our Diocese has put out some information to give us very useful background; historical, theological and pastoral. This can be found on the internet: [www.nelsonanglican.org.nz/diocese-resources](http://www.nelsonanglican.org.nz/diocese-resources) - you need to scroll down to Motion 29 near the bottom. There you will find 5 video clips and 4 documents. All are useful. Please do access them if you can.

We probably won't be printing out the documents because most of them are quite long. However we will be copying the video clips on to discs so you can view them at home very soon. In early February we will be showing them at parish meetings. These will include a variety of times so that everyone is able to attend.

Vestry agreed last night that we will offer two ways for you to give your feedback on Motion 29 to us. They are either by way of written submission or simply talking to the Synod reps or to myself as your Vicar. (The written submission forms will be simple and we will limit the number of words to 300.)

We'll be asking for your feedback early next year. In the meantime please do look at the videos and read the documents if you can access the internet. And please do give myself or the Synod reps feedback on the process we have suggested.

Most of all please try not to worry. Jesus said we are to 'let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day'. We will endeavour to take his advice and take one step at a time.

But do please pray. Pray especially for those you disagree with. Pray for our church unity (local and national) and witness to Christ.

This situation presents a huge challenge for us a parish. It also presents a huge opportunity. We

can show God's grace and love to each other in ways that we have never needed to before. We can choose to work through this complicated, sometimes divisive issue, in ways that honour and esteem everyone. We can truly be the safe place for all people that we have been talking about and working towards.

We get to choose how we behave in times like this. My own choice is to be with you in this process; to

pray diligently for us as a parish, a diocese and for our wider national church. My choice is to genuinely love all people; as far as is possible for me. (Please let me know if I slip up on this.)

May we Follow Jesus and Build Community even in this controversy – especially in this.

Learning together in love,

*Susan*

**Lunch on the Hill Christmas Feast.** - 11:30am this Tuesday 5 December. All welcome to our final lunch for 2017. Come along and bring a friend. A lovely festive spread will be available. Koha donation entry. Thanks to our cooks and supporters, who make this possible. *Yvonne Smyth - Elder Care Team Leader*

### = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

**Today Sunday 3 December**

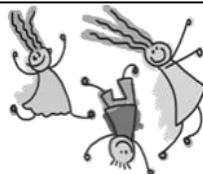
Practice for Christmas play

**Next Sunday 10 December**

Making truffles for Christmas gifts

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church.

Prayers and offers of help are appreciated. Catherine 022 647 9810



## Prayers for the Week

**God's World** – Lord God, be with all the leaders of the nations, may they all work together to create a peaceful world. Help ease tensions in troublespots, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Syria and other places. Help us to look after our precious planet more diligently. We thank you for the excitement of the royal engagement, and pray for a blessed and happy marriage, and that they will be able to limit media intrusion on their life together. Look kindly on our world, our God, as we suffer and struggle with one another, and may the light we have seen in Jesus, illuminate and brighten all the world.

**Mission Partners** – Today we pray for our Mission Partners, R & N, who have joined a business run by fellow Kiwis in South Asia, which offers alternative employment to women trapped in the sex industry. We pray especially for their children, who have moved away from all they ever knew, to a foreign environment, keep them all safe we pray.

**Diocese** – Thank you Lord for the parish of St Stephens, Tahunanui. For Revd Nathaniel Petterson as he leads this church. We pray also for Gavin Cole and the excellent work he does in the 50+ Ministry. As they seek some new employees, we ask God to send the right people for these roles. We pray for the Youth Group, TRIBE, and praise God for the growth numerically and spiritually. As Christmas approaches, we pray for all ministers in our churches, that the joy of the Lord will be in their hearts.

**Community** - We pray for wisdom for the Waimea Dam proposal, that whatever is in the best interests of the community and ratepayers will eventuate. We pray for Grace Church and their pastor, Peter Somerfield, for The Christmas Journey outreach, and for a deep sense of unity and oneness as they move forward, and refreshment over the summer break for staff. And for the teachers and children as the school year draws to an end shortly, and for Susan in her valuable role as Chaplain at Richmond Primary School.

**Our Parish** – We pray for the ministry of Lunch on the Hill, for the team who have provided wonderful meals over this year, for sending Wendy to join Team 2, and we pray for our final dinner for the year, next Tuesday, and the work behind the scenes getting this ready. We also pray for the Remembrance Service, and we pray you continue to pour out your love and grace on Albertha, Gwen, Ellie, Margaret Silke and others known to us. Continue, we pray, to comfort Val Barnes in her recent sad loss.

## **This Week...**

### **Monday 4 December**

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### **Tuesday 5 December**

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)

11.30am Lunch on the Hill Christmas Lunch

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

### **Wednesday 6 December**

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

### **Thursday 7 December**

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

### **Sunday 10 December**

9.00am Holy Communion \*

10.45am Praise on the Hill \*

6.00pm Family Carol Service

*\* Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## **Coming up...**

### **Sunday 17 December**

7.00pm Lessons and Carols

*For more information about services or groups contact the office Ph. 544 8844.*

**St Albans' Appleby Services**

**10.30am Sunday 10 December** Holy Communion

**7.00pm Sunday 24 December** Christmas Eve Service

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is:  
03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

## **Roster for 10 December - Thank you for serving us all!**

<b>Leader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	J Sardella	<b>10.45am</b>	A Sardella
<b>Reader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	M Gibson, D Day	<b>10.45am</b>	M Tilley
<b>Sidespeople</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	M Gibson	<b>10.45am</b>	M Tilley
<b>Welcomer:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	J McConachie	<b>10.45am</b>	S Lyon
<b>Chalice:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	G Thomas, M McRae		
<b>Tea:</b>		M Watson, M Evans		
<b>Flowers:</b>		A Heslop	<b>Creche:</b>	M Martin

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Bringing comfort

**Readings for next Sunday:** Isaiah 40:1 - 11, Mark 1:1 - 8

## **Parish Contacts**

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	Children's Ministry	Catherine Barak	022 6479810
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Senior's Ministry	Yvonne Smyth	544 8844	Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey	544 8844
Youth Leader	Antonio Sardella	027 3525598			

## **Holy Trinity Church**

27 Dorset Street

PO Box 3013

Richmond

**Phone / Fax** 03 544 8844

**Email** church.onhill@xtra.co.nz

**Website**

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

## **Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm