



Church on the Hill

Sunday 18 February 2018



Theme: Unfailing Love and Faithfulness
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9 -15

Sentence:

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love, which you have shown from long ages past.
- Psalm 25:6

Prayer for the day:

God of Heaven and Earth, remind us of your unfailing love and faithfulness towards us, we pray, in this season of Lent; strengthen us in the face of temptation so we may share the Good

News and reveal your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ Our Redeemer, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



on the right track. Perhaps then some of Pope Francis' very biblical challenges will become realities in our lives. Perhaps we might be gradually transformed. Perhaps others around might see more of this Jesus we follow.

Season of Lent

We began the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Some attended one of our services –either the 10.00am at Holy Trinity or the evening combined service at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This joint service was a huge blessing for me in so many ways. Others attended elsewhere which is cool too.

Last year the Catholics supported us and it was lovely to be able to return the gesture. Thank you to those who were able to do so. It was a privilege to be able to read the Gospel and preach the 'homily' – apparently women don't in their services. (I'm quite pleased I didn't know that first.) Though it was necessarily a sombre service, people 'enjoyed' worshipping together.

I began with some very challenging words from Pope Francis. Pope Francis hangs about with his Master quite a bit and a great deal of Jesus' character seems to have rubbed off on Francis – as you'd expect. Lent brings an invitation to hang about a bit more with Jesus too.

During this season traditional spiritual disciplines are often put into practice. Some are fasts or subtractions and some are additions. The additions require giving up something to make them happen though - often it is time. I wonder what the Lord is inviting you to as we head towards Easter. You may like to ponder Pope Francis' words and consider what they would look like if we lived them out.

Of course we can't in our own strength. We recognise how frail our human strength is. But by hanging about with Jesus a bit more; by allowing the Holy Spirit to fill us more, by learning and absorbing more of the Father's love for us we are

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Thank you also to those who honoured our Bishop's request to use Ash for prayer (and fasting) for the one-day Synod on 10 March. Thank you to those of you who have voted in order to let our Synod reps know our parish perspective on this crucial matter. Please continue to pray – for unity for our provincial (national) church in this matter.

Learning together in love,

Susan

Stones - We will be starting on our new building soon and we want to give everyone a last opportunity to put your children and grand children's name on a stone, which will be buried in the foundation of the new hall. A gold coin donation will be appreciated for each stone to go to the building fund. - Kai Kruse & Jacob Klootwyk.

Café Connection - Our popular gathering resumes next Thurs at The Wooden Spoon Café, 10.00am, if you have not been before come along, we have booked the middle table, we buy our own coffee and little treat, and enjoy each other's company for an hour or so, see you there. Yvonne

Church open for Prayer - The Church is open for prayer each Monday from 9.00am - 2.00pm
All welcome.

World Day of Prayer for 2018 - Friday 2 March. This year the Richmond Catholic Community is hosting this important and far reaching day of prayer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 35 William St, Richmond at 11.00am. We invite you all to come and to share this invitation with your communities that they may come too and join in Worship and Fellowship. Cuppa and light refreshment following the service. The woman of Suriname, a small country in the north east of South America have prepared the service to be celebrated all over the world. It focuses on the goodness of God's creation and our part in looking after it.

Prayers for the Week

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. - *Psalms 46:1*

The World - Dear God, make yourself known to all who need relief and provision. We remember Tonga, especially the family and friends of Pastor Sam and his church which meets in our church. Thank you for the evident trust in you. We ask for your restoration and comfort for them and all impacted by disaster. We also ask for good government across our world. Specifically please help the US act on their gun laws and the other factors that contribute to the shootings that occur there. We pray for the victims and their families of the most recent event in Florida. Bring about your Kingdom somehow with our cousins across the ditch as they deal with political scandal and Bangladesh where the opposition leader was charged with fraud and tensions are high during this election year. And in this season of Lent we pray for Christians who are persecuted because they love you. We also pray for minorities everywhere persecuted for whatever reason.

Mission - We pray for the Corin family in Central Asia giving thanks for Sophia's diagnosis and ask you for good health for her. They ask us to pray for the many people in the city who are struggling with the cold - particularly for the poor and homeless. We give thanks for the homeless shelter and all who work there. Especially we pray for 'M' who continues to be salt and light in his community and in the lives of the homeless people that he is working with. Please provide someone to take over this work, when he needs to retire.

Diocese - We pray for a positive outcome regarding Motion 29 at our Diocesan Synod on 10 March; that we truly can learn to respect those we may disagree with and follow your ways. We pray Simon and Fran Martin and the All Saints parish. We stand in awe of Edward Andrews and his long-standing service at the Night Shelter. Pour out your blessing on him as he has a well-deserved break in Israel. May your presence on this journey enrich him and prepare him for his next years of ministry. We pray for Loaves and Fishes and all that happens to provide for the wider community and the church folk at All Saints. May the final day at the Diocesan camp – Convergence – bring blessing to many through Steve and Mary Maina and the team.

Community - We thank you Sovereign God for our politicians (at least sometimes we do). Please help the Labour Party implement their aspirational goals of alleviating poverty and family violence in this land. We pray for robust effective relationships between national and local governments that the needs of the most vulnerable may be met. We remember the Lutheran Church and ask for a secure and promising settling in for Pastor Mark and his family.

Our Parish - Thanks for the social events that have been organised over the January breaks and for the new way of doing church in our second service. Thank you too for the flexibility of our church folk who are willing to try new things. Enable creativity to flow as we try to include everyone in worship. Be with Gwen Thomas, Margaret Silke and others known to us; bringing them comfort and strength. Thank you for Murray Savage's recovery from a major hip and his return to home in Christchurch. Pour out your blessing on the rest homes and hospital staff and residents in our parish.

This Week...

Monday 19 February

9.00am Church open for Prayer
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 20 February

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)
11.30am Lunch on the Hill
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)
7.30pm Lenten Study in Church

Wednesday 21 February

10.00am Wednesday Service

Thursday 22 February

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)
7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 25 February

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Praise on the Hill
12.00pm Fundraiser Picnic Sundial Square

Coming up...

Friday 2 March

10.00am World Day of Prayer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church

Tuesday 27 February // 6,13,20,27 March

7.30pm Lenten Study in Church

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 25 February

Morning Worship

Sunday 11 March

Holy Communion

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

Roster for 25 February - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	J Palmer	10.30am	S Gill
Reader:	9.00am	S Frengley, M Reynolds	10.30am	L Milligan, P Power
Sidesperson	9.00am	J Lines	10.30am	P Power
Welcomer:	9.00am	A Webb	10.30am	S Milligan
Chalice:	9.00am	S Frengley, S Paine	10.30am	N/A
Tea:		K Kruse, E Epoi		
Flowers:		N/A	Creche:	S Milligan

Theme for Next Sunday:

A new way of seeing

Readings for next Sunday:

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16, Mark 8:31-38

Parish Contacts

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	Children's Ministry	Vacant
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	Joshua Allan-Johns	544 8844		

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm