

# ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD APRIL 2017

## The Easter adventure draws near

Daylight saving ended today—you obviously remembered! So the evenings will be drawing in, and those with solid fuel heating will be checking their wood supplies.

The season of Lent continues, with the momentous events of Easter just a fortnight away. More on this later.

Meanwhile we look back on some interesting events in March, our cluster meeting at Te Atatu for example, our Lenten studies, and the visit of Paul Gilbert.



Paul's sermon was disturbing. He used our Christmas silhouette of the Nativity on the windows above the altar as an illustration of some of his themes.

(We had been debating whether or not to remove it. It can't be taken down intact. After his sermon, who would dare destroy it!)



In particular he talked about the housing of the Auckland homeless, and how the organisation he works with had built 300 homes in South Auckland.

It's a problem that's not going to go away, and we must consider what we can do to help. It may be quite a small way, but every little helps.

*A warm welcome to our guest preacher today, the Rev Dr Derek Tovey. Originally from Christchurch, in 2015 he retired from St John's Theological College after 20 years of lecturing in New Testament studies. He and his family now attend St Chad's, Meadowbank.*

### Diary notes

#### April

- 4 **Palm cross making**
- 8 **Telling the Easter story**
- ? **Lenten studies**

### Inside this issue:

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### Westie cluster sees striking presentation

There was a good group from St Francis at the recent cluster meeting at Te Atatu.

Sarah Park, the Diocesan Ministry Educator introduced a project she had developed, "A Res-

urrection Journey", now available at [www.resurrection.nz](http://www.resurrection.nz).

It's a 57 day calendar that goes through to Pentecost. It looks very worthwhile. Take time to seek it out.

***A special welcome to our visitors today***

## Saturday 8th April, 1.30pm to 3.30pm special Easter event at St Francis

Telling the Easter Story—Once again we are hoping the whole church will participate - to the best of their ability - in this children and families ministry. Your prayers of support are welcome.

Welcome too is any help and interest you are able to offer for an hour or two on the day, Saturday 8th April, welcoming, chatting to visitors and assisting Moira to give them a cuppa, or sizzling a sausage for the kids. Or helping the children with activities: it will be fun for all. It runs 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Most of all we rely on your help in *talking* about the event and drop-

ping leaflets in letter boxes wherever you know of families.

We will have the Easter Story around the walls as at Christmas, and fun craft activities to match; a DVD and music to dance to; chalk art outside if fine, a sausage sizzle. Koha for the City Mission.

*Margaret Strid*



**“...how  
can  
we  
lobby..”**

### Disturbing news about Manukau water

Of course you read “The Fringe”, our own local monthly mag!

But perhaps like many you didn't read in detail the article “Is the Manukau safe?” Eve drew this to our attention and it is disturbing reading.

At our worship committee meeting we have been discussing ways in which we can make St Francis an “eco church”, a body more conscious of our environment. This is certainly one way.

The article notes how permanent “unsafe for swimming” notices have been posted at Wood Bay and Laingholm beaches. Green Bay too has a very high faecal bacteria count.

One wonders about French Bay, Cornwallis and other favourite swimming spots.

“There's been a tremendous amount of stonewalling on this is-

sue,” says biologist Gemma Allen. The Auckland council, she says, is interested in growth, and the side effects are not catered for.

Swimming in the Manukau may not be on your agenda for a month or two, but let's think about how we can lobby for action to make our harbour safe.



On Tuesday 4th April 10am at St Francis, the Friendship Group will meet to make palm crosses. There'll be morning tea and hot cross buns to enhance your labours. Tuition supplied.

## Lent concludes with a fine flourish of St Francis Easter celebrations

Easter Sunday is a time when we can really let rip with our celebrations. It's a "riotous assembly of joyful Christians, ready to party after a time of austerity," says Richard Giles.

So young and old, you are invited to bring along your bells and whistles, any noise making instruments, to help add to the fun. Think horns, rattles and even saucepan lids. Try the \$2 shop.



We'll be having balloons and streamers; do wear bright clothing too. Maybe an Easter bonnet! We plan to have bubbly afterwards.

Leading up to Easter Sunday, the worship committee have outlined other significant days.

Next Sunday, 9th April, is Palm Sunday so we'll have the distribution and blessing of palm crosses, and the ceremonial procession. We'll include the reading of the Passion story, a moving way to conclude the service.

Holy week continues with the special Maundy Thursday celebration starting at 6pm, the foot-washing, the stripping of the altar, and the simple Last Supper meal.

We'll gather on Good Friday morning at 9.30am in the village to make a Processions of Witness behind a simple wooden cross down to St Francis. The service will be-

gin there at 10am—let us know if you need transport.



Last year we introduced the Vigil, not Saturday night but early Sunday morning, 7am. David will again lead this Service of the Light, followed by breakfast together before the 9.30am service.

We plan to have two crosses to decorate: the plain wooden one fastened outside St Francis to be decorated with streamers, tinsel, and other bright colours, and the varnished, polished one inside, decorated with flowers.

The Easter season does not conclude with Easter Sunday, so the celebrations should continue. Sarah Park reminded us of this: see elsewhere for her study guide.



The following Sunday, 23rd April, we have a baptism to celebrate. It's also Shakespeare's birthday, and the feast of St George, the patron saint of England.

Then on Sunday 30th April we'll have our annual Harvest Festival, often a very colourful gathering of produce of all sorts. It's reasonably near the World Earth Day, 22nd April. Let's see what we can gather this year.

***"...horns,  
rattles,  
saucepan  
lids..."***

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**Worship Times:**  
**Sundays 9.30am**  
**3pm last Sunday**

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As Christine and Lindsay are off overseas, here are the readings for the next 2 months. Some are subject to change for special services.

**APRIL**

2<sup>nd</sup> Passion Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

9<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9A; Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27:66

14<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

16<sup>th</sup> Vigil 7am

16<sup>th</sup> 9.30 Easter Sunday Acts 10:34-43; Col 3:1-4; Matt 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

23<sup>rd</sup> Baptism Acts 2:14a,22-32

30<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival Acts 2:14a,36-41; 1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

**MAY**

7<sup>th</sup> Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

14<sup>th</sup> Acts 7:55-60; 1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

21<sup>st</sup> Acts 17:22-31; 1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14: 15-21

28<sup>th</sup> Acts 1:6-14; 1 Pet 4:12-14:5:6-11; John 17:1-11

## News and views from here and there

### **Council Corner:**

Our AGM was well attended, receiving and welcoming the positive reports. The council was re-elected unanimously. Following the AGM, the Council officially elected the following as officers for the coming year: Christine Nash, Chair; Donna Glover, Secretary; John Hyatt, Treasurer.

### **St Francis in use:**

The St Francis building is now being let on a regular basis: Pilates twice a week, a drumming and dance group, and meditation. It's good to see the building used by the community.

### **Eco Church:**

Susan Crozier is looking into how St Francis may be able to work in with *Eco Matters* based in New Lynn. Do support their fair on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Diocesan:**

Ian Mackley has been elected to a Diocesan working party to look into the issue of quotas, and come up with a solution to this sometimes thorny issue.

### **Christian Love Link:**

Sadly, Helen advises that CLL is closing due to lack of grants and funding. It seems secular organisations are more in favour for funding! However, they will still maintain their service of taking food parcels to those in need.

### **Cleaner:**

Our excellent cleaning lady Robyn has resigned, and she also cleaned John Hyatt's home. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this (paid) part time employment please phone John 817 5605.

### **New Liturgists:**

A warm welcome to Susan and Neil, now well settled in the saddle, so to speak.

### **Lenten appeal:**

Don't overlook those envelopes at the back of the church!

**News from Margaret Inglis**, nee Elsbury, married to Chris, and happily living in Green Bay.

Wedding bells! Elizabeth Elsbury will marry Adam Crisp, also a physiotherapist, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April (Palm Sunday) at Elwood, Melbourne. Adam is from a lovely warm Australian /Italian family. The couple plan to continue to live in Melbourne.

Births - David Elsbury and Kylie were blessed with Amelia, born 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

***We deny any resemblance between your current St Francis priests and the Vicar of Dibley. But thank you for your strong support. The show played to nearly full houses throughout.***

*And now we're off!*

