

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD FEB 2016

“Fasting has made me gaunt”*

“And what are you giving up for Lent?” Amongst the seasons of the church year, Lent is ironically the one most widely recognized, if not understood, by the person in the street.

Perhaps that’s less true now than a few years ago. Maybe Ramadan gets more public attention these days!



Whatever the current view, Lent is traditionally a time of restraint. Musical exuberances are reigned in, some parts of the liturgy are omitted, the Gloria and Alleluia for example, and our worship space may look different.

Over time the Church’s rules governing the observance of Lent have inevitably softened. In early centuries the observance was strict: one meal a day.

As time passed, rules were steadily reduced, and now the Lenten fast is just the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. More on that later.

So let this be a time of reflection as we make our way towards the joyful celebration of Easter.

At our last Worship committee meeting we discussed the Easter services. We’ll have details in the March newsletter.

Meanwhile you’ll be interested to hear about a marked change for 2016. Last year some people commented on finding St Francis in near gloom when they arrived on Easter morning, expecting it to be all bright and cheerful.

Later we lit the Pascal candle and all the lights came on, and we did indeed have a bright and cheerful service.

So this year we’re having a special Service of Light at 7am (!) Easter morning when the Pascal candle will be lit with due ceremony. Then the church will be all it up when people arrive at 9.30am. Thank you for the feedback that stimulated our discussion.

If you can make it, do come at 7am.

* *Shakespeare, Richard II*

Next Sunday. 14th February, we’ll be having our annual Beach Service down on Titirangi Beach.

If you have a folding chair you could bring it, but between us we’ll have seating for all.

See inside for more details.

Diary notes

Feb

- 9 Shrove Tues
- 10 Ash Wed
- 14 Beach

St Valentine’s Day

April

- 10 Ordination



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A special welcome to our visitors today

Travellers' tales—a journey to the winterless north finds treasures

Our holiday jaunt to the far North—there's a lot of New Zealand north of Whangarei—was an adventure in so many ways.

Courtesy of our accumulated Fly-Buys, we had three nights in Paihia. Our first day took us across to Waitangi, where the treaty house and the spacious grounds never fail to expand the spirit.



**“...lamp
still
burning..”**

We then had some time in Kerikeri, looking at the Stone Store and the oldest wooden building in New Zealand, Kemp House. We noted the lamp still burning in the front window, a reminder of the lamp Charlotte lit there to guide sailors up the estuary.

Later we visited two Kerikeri boutique wineries where we tasted some fine Northern vintages. But that's another story.

We crossed to Russell for an afternoon's sailing on the Tall Ship R Tucker Thompson. But we had time for a sentimental visit to the old wooden Christ's Church also an LSM unit.

Next day we had time to visit the stone church of St James in Paihia, where we were lucky to find an old LSM acquaintance, Val Mack..

She brought us up to date with their current activities. They are making admirable efforts to set up a community centre combining with other local bodies. It's hard, she says, to generate a community spirit, but her enthusiasm was clear. We'll keep in touch.

Christine and Lindsay

Mostly Craft takes a break

The Mostly Craft team will swing into action again on Saturday 19th March.

The proposed theme is “Easter” with Elaine acting as coordinator. There's a lively year ahead.

Annual Beach Day service 10am

Next Sunday, 14th February, our Beach Day service will start at 10am. If you need transport, meet at St Francis at 9.30am. Do bring any interested friends.

We will follow a liturgy devised by David Guthrie and Lindsay a couple of years ago, using a locally made chalice.

We use a corner reserve in the sun and out of the wind, we hope! We have quite a few folding chairs provided by the congregation. If you have one or more, let us know. If it's fine, you might like to bring a picnic lunch to have on the beach

afterwards. Tide will be on its way in, high just before 4pm.



If it's wet, we'll beat a dignified retreat to the shelter of St Francis and have an imaginary beach service there!

Greetings to Baptismal guests and pancakes for all as Lent nears

A very warm welcome this morning to the Major family and their friends, and especially Greer Jennifer who will be baptised. We hope you'll all stay and share pancakes.

Our January services were all well attended, and we were blessed with several baptisms and a wedding. Joyful music added to the occasions.

Shrove Tuesday originates in the "shriving" of Christians on that day, that is, making confession and obtaining absolution.

However, it became a time for eating well before the fasting time of lent. It gave rise to the term Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday".

6pm Ash Wednesday service

We will again have an Ash Wednesday service at St Francis to mark the beginning of Lent. It's at 6pm.

The ashes are made by burning some of last year's palm crosses and mixing them with a little oil.

The service includes the imposition of an ash cross on the forehead. Then later your neighbour will wipe them off as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.

This is something new, and in this way we have the best of both worlds, We keep the liturgical intent intact at the same time recognising Christ's forgiveness.

We'll then have a simple meal of bread and soup, stimulating, we hope, a sense of adventure as Lent begins.

So on Tuesday we'll be cooking pancakes outside Glovers Titi-rangi, and giving them away till the batter runs out. Do drop by.

Today is a preview, and we'll be cooking up a storm after our baptism and Eucharist. We have master chefs in waiting.

Bishop Ross makes a call
Sunday 10th April marks another important step in the Local Shared Ministry life at St Francis.

David Crawley, previously ordained Deacon, will be ordained by Bishop Ross as a Sacramental Minister. Great news!

*"...the
best
of both
worlds..."*

Lenten studies 2016

Based on Mark's Gospel, this year's Lenten study starts soon.

There will be two venues:
St Francis, 3—5pm Saturday
20th Feb and following weeks;
Parau (probably Valerie
Parker's place) 3—5pm
Saturday 5th March

Thanks to a kind benefactor, the study booklets are free, and are available at the back of the church.

Neil assures us the studies are "self drive", that is, no special knowledge or preparation is needed. All are welcome.



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Readings for February

7th Ephesians 4:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Baptism of Greer Jennifer Major
Wed 10th: Ash Wednesday 6pm. Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
Sun 14th: Beach Service: Deut 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Sun 21st Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Sun 28th Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Remember appropriate prayer is always available at the altar rails after the service.

Farewell to Sal "the wine gal" Cameron who is off to Lyttleton.

And welcome back to Clive and Sally.

News and events from the parish

Welcome lunch:

Many thanks to those who provided such a wealth of scrumptious food for the lunch to welcome back our incoming enabler, the Rev Anne Moody.



Anne will be with us in general for the first Sunday in the month. She is available for individual consultation, and will also run workshops from time to time.

Soldiers' Memorial Church services.

As you may know, late last year we put on hold our Wednesday morning service at Soldiers' Memorial Church as attendance was mostly two parishioners who were offered home communion as a replacement.

A renewal of the service has not been formally discussed with church teams or the SMC trust yet. However, it would be interesting to get some feedback and opinions. Should we continue Wednesday mornings and advertise the service more widely? Should we change to a monthly afternoon slot, say 3pm, if the SMC is available? It would be a shame to

lose our presence at the little church, but we certainly need to re-think.

Your feedback and any ideas would be appreciated. Please let me know, then we can bring it up for discussion at MST and Council meetings. Thank you.

Christine

It is impossible to avoid all the comment about the TPPA. What business is it of the Church, you may ask.

It is clear there are powerful arguments from powerful minds on both sides of the discussion. The ratification of the document by our NZ Government in a couple of years may have far reaching effects on all our lives.



*So it is over to us to give clear directions to our government. Do take any opportunity you have to read what **both** sides have to say. It's not easy going! But it's very worthwhile.*