

Good time to 'let go'

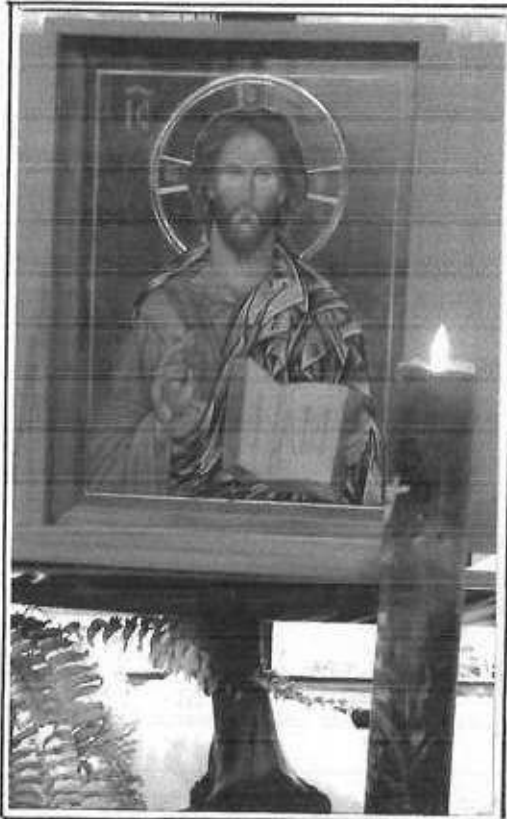
IN JANUARY this year I went on a silent retreat at the University of Waikato, run by the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). I have been a member of WCCM since 2007 and have been on a number of silent retreats; I meditate twice a day.

A silent retreat allows participants to 'let go' of their day-to-day concerns: cellphones are switched off and there is strictly no television. The silence allows retreatants time to hear and internalise the talks.

This year Father Laurence Freeman spoke on the theme 'Light and Shade'. He talked about the duality inherent in our human condition that causes our sense of restlessness.

A favourite quote of Christian

Turn the page



This ikon overlooked the meditation retreat: mysteriously from whatever angle you see it the eyes appear to be watching you.

Two new MST members

TODAY, FEBRUARY 3, the St Francis Titirangi congregation, led by Rev Edward Prebble, commissioned two new members to its ministry support team: Donna Glover as administrator and Sarah Penwarden as priest-in-training. Please keep praying for God's gracious will as the team, in its service to the church, deals with the day-to-day realities of our pilgrimage as a faith community.

Casual driver help needed
CAN YOU help with occasional Sunday driving, to transport an older member from home to church and return? Contact Jenny Keating tel. 833 1931.

Workshops extol being salt, light, leaven

A BIG offering of 2019 workshops, seminars and events was signalled last week by the Auckland Anglican diocese.

Most – not all – are for ministry people, but some are offered to any church members wanting to extend their understanding of Christian life and faith. They include:

'Being salt light & leaven where you work': the ministry of lay people as agents for change in their workplace. How to be the salt, light and leaven at the cutting edge of day-by-day mission. Sat August 4, 9.15am to 3.45pm. Cost \$25 at the door, including lunch and cuppas. Enrol with richardrandersonnz@gmail.com
Two seminars with Brad and

Eden Jersek, visiting from the US.

The seminars are 'The image of God revealed in Christ' and 'The gospel in chairs'. The first seminar will assess common toxic images of God in the world and in Christianity, then turn to Christ, who is the final and perfect image of God as 'cruciform love'.

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Briefly NOTED

Thank you

A VERY sincere thank you to all the people who stepped up and helped in the church kitchen when Herman and I underwent our latest 'adventure'. Truly we have a shared kitchen and may it continue to run smoothly.

--- Moira and Herman

Visit to St Francis at Tairua

OUR CHURCH is planning to visit a 'sister' church at Tairua, Coromandel, on March 2 & 3. The church there is also named St Francis (the only other church so named in the Auckland diocese) and, like ours, has a local shared ministry. If you're interested talk to Donna Glover.

Sunday Bible readings

Feb 3 -- Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 84 or 24:7-10, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40.

Feb 10 -- Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138, 1 Cor:1-11, Luke 5:1-11.

Feb 17 -- Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Cor 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26.

Feb 24 -- Gen 45:3-11 & 15, Psalm 37:1-11 & 39-40, 1 Cor 15:35-38 & 42-50, Luke 6:27-38.

Annual meeting March 10

THE CHURCH annual meeting will be on Sunday March 10 after the service.

Accommodation offered

BOARDER / housemate required in private, quiet home in Titirangi - tel. 027 2424 772.

Persistent stargazer enrages Rome's 'scholars'

Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel (1999).

'IT IS the earth that moves,' Galileo defiantly claims, as the church of Rome blocks their ears.

'No, no the earth is fixed - see the scripture. It's the sun that moves,' the church of Rome insists.

Such a battle for the truth was finally won 350 years later and Galileo was vindicated. The story of Galileo (b.1564) is told mostly through his daughter's correspondence with him from her strictly cloistered convent of St Clare in Florence.

This is a good read, full of the passion of a devoted daughter, relaying the marvel of this brilliant scientist and mathematician.

In 1992 Pope John Paul II publicly endorsed Galileo's findings and philosophy.

I saw much in this story as I read it a second time.

--- Jenny Keating



Workshops

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The second ('chairs') seminar will compare two approaches to the gospel, using the biblical narrative to see how the love of the Father revealed in Christ is relentless -- marked by the line from Psalms 'His mercy endures forever'.

The Jerseks visited NZ last year, when Brad ran the 'chairs' seminar at Holy Trinity cathedral. They have long experience in pastoring churches, raising children, teaching and publishing. Cost \$25 incl cuppas. Bring your own lunch. Enrol via bishop.office@aucklandanglican.org.nz

Silent retreat

From front page

meditators is from St Augustine, "Lord, our hearts were restless until they found their rest in you." Laurence reminded us that Christian meditation is "not a way to fantasy expectations that life won't include times of darkness, loss or suffering, but that the cycle of life takes us

forward and we discover that wisdom is nothing less than the presence of God."

During meditation our 'dividedness' is gradually healed as we let go our thoughts and allow God's grace to work in us. I have found this growing detachment from thoughts and feelings has led to a greater acceptance and love for others and for me.

--- Suzie Hadow

Gospel stories catch children

'The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name'. This has been around ten years (comes as a DVD) and seems well thought-of. See it online at www.bookdepository.com. Their price is NZ\$22.51.