

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

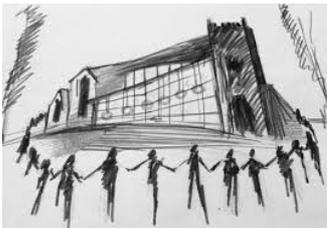
96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD MARCH 2016

Make the most of “refreshment day”!

Today is Mothering Sunday. We don't make a special occasion of this day at St Francis, but it gives us a chance to reflect on three figures, Mary the mother of Jesus, our own mothers, and the Mother Church.

In early times on this day domestic servants were given the day off and a chance to visit their “mother” churches, where they were baptised, and so have a family reunion. They were said to “go a-mothering.”

Another tradition was “clipping” the church, still done in some places. It might be difficult here in Titirangi, joining hands and surrounding the church.



It is also known as “refreshment Sunday”, a day when you could break your Lenten fast. Sometimes special simnel cakes were baked. Now that's something we **can** try.

It's not to be confused with Mothers' Day, though in England and other parts of the world the two are on the one day.

In New Zealand we celebrate Mothers' Day separately, this

year on 8th May, when we bless posies and take them to the village. Thanks in advance to those involved.



Thanks also to those involved in some recent sterling events. The weather for our annual beach service was again benevolent, and we had a lovely warm spot.

Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday in the village were very well received, thanks again to Glovers for allowing us to plug in.

Then we repeated the cook-up the following Sunday in St Francis. Both events featured our visiting celebrity chef Sally. Special thanks to Valerie for mixing up a splendid brew.

The Ash Wednesday service was very well attended this year, a moving celebration where, for a change, the congregation wiped off the ashes from their neighbour's brow.

AGM
Sunday 20th March
See inside for details

Diary notes

March

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A special welcome to our visitors today

“Procession of Witness” again a feature of stimulating Easter plans

Our Easter services are taking shape. We have a few changes to explore this year, and we'll outline them now.

On Maundy Thursday 24th March we'll again have our foot-washing service at 7pm. Many people find this a very peaceful, thoughtful experience.

Our Good Friday service begins with a gathering in the village at 9am. We'll then have a Procession of Witness behind the same rugged cross we had last year. People seem to add themselves to the crowd as we proceed.

This year we're planning a reflective service based on Stations of the Cross, not the traditional 14 stations, but the 8 Biblical ones. David and Lindsay are working on this. It starts at 9.30am

You'll note that we put up our fine works of art of the 14 stations last week.

On Easter morning in past years we've started the service in semi-darkness, then turned on all the lights after the procession with the Pascal candle.

Several of you have commented on the somewhat gloomy start, so this year we're having the Service of Light beforehand, at 7am no less! Be there if you can!



So when the congregation arrive at 9.30am for the Easter everything will be bright and shining!

You'll remember too the Easter Acclamation, “Alleluia, Christ is Risen.” and the reply “He is risen indeed. Alleluia!” Let's make this a tumultuous roar this year.

Richard Giles suggests “let rip with a weird and wonderful collection of things with which to make a merry noise.”

So prepare now. Bells, whistles, rattles, horns and even saucepan lids. This could be a memorable Easter!

**“...let
rip
with
merry
noise..”**

Lively participation as Lenten Studies conclude

This year's Lenten study, based on St Mark's Gospel, planned to have its second meeting at St Francis yesterday 5th March.



There has been some brisk discussion, so a third session may be called for. We'll keep you informed. All welcome.

Mostly Craft
Saturday 19th March 2016
1:30 - 3:30pm
Children 5- 11years
(Accompanied)
Crafts, Sausage Sizzle, afternoon
tea.
Call Donna 8175412.
Please note the new times this
year.

Ordination of David an important step along the way for St Francis

Dig amongst your back copies of this St Francis Parish newsletter—surely you keep them!—and you'll find 10 years ago some interesting news.



For it was in the newsletter of March 2006 that we announced the commissioning on 12th Feb of our new co—vicar team of the Revs Anne Moody and Thomas Thomas, in the Joint Parish Project. Bishop John Paterson presided.

Haven't we come a long way! Our next step, a very significant one, is the ordination of David to the priesthood, our third Sacramental

Minister, on Sunday 10th April.

Bishop Jim White will preside, and, of course, we now have Anne Moody back as our Enabler.

The Joint Parish Project was an interesting experiment, which served largely to lead us into Local Shared Ministry. It's fair to say that under this system we have flourished.

We are very blessed to have David as part of the team. He comes with a huge background of study and experience, and with Sarah has become a valued, integral part of the St Francis community.

Be sure you are there on 17th to celebrate this momentous occasion!

**“...we've
come
a long
way...”**

Why not make your presence felt at AGM?

Our Annual General meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, 20th March. The Rev Anne will be in the chair.

The meeting will:

- hear reports
- elect officers
- deal with any general business that may arise.

If you have any thing in particular that you wish discussed, you will need to see Norman so that it is on the agenda. See him too for nomination papers for places on the council or if you'd like to be nominated yourself.

It's an important event, so do try to keep your time free that day after church.

A lovely text received from Sal Cameron, now in Christchurch, 28th Feb.

“Thinking of you all at St Francis this morning as I miss you muchly. I pray all are in fine fettle.

I'm busy settling in. More mobile at present but heat hurts and leads to swelling. Swimming heaps.

I have been blessed with a warm welcoming from new and old friends.

Was sitting on local beach during 5.7 shake. Out of body feeling when ground beneath began rolling back. Back on kayak and out to sea away from the cliff face ASAP!

*Think of u all frequently with love and cherish the memories u cloaked me in. Love and gratitude always”
Sal Cameron*

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**Worship Times:
Sundays 9.30am**

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Readings for March

March and Easter readings

6th Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

13th Passion Sunday Isaiah 43:16-21; Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

20th Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a; Phil 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 OR
Luke 23:1-49

24th Maundy Thursday service

25th Good Friday

27th Easter vigil

27th Easter Sunday Eucharist Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26;

Luke 24:1-12

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

Congratulations to Betty Costard on moving to her new house at Crestwood. We will be very sorry to say goodbye to Sally and Clive Stevens, as they journey back to UK. God speed! And we welcome back from the UK Cynthia Walker!

News and events from the parish

2016 LENTEN APPEAL

As we celebrate Easter let's be aware of places in the world where celebrating is far from people's minds.

Each year Anglican Missions chooses three worthy causes. Last year it was new Sunday school classrooms at Port Said, Egypt, motor cycles for clergy to reach remote areas in Tanzania and a new patient monitor for the Intensive Care Unit in St Luke's Hospital, Nablus.

This year we have three further causes. The Diocese of Polynesia in Fiji plans to establish a drop-in centre for the young victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. It will be based in Suva and will offer a safe refuge for these children

The church in Ethiopia is growing encouragingly. The Gambella region in Western Ethiopia now has over eighty Anglican churches, with increasing attendances. They are in need of theological training for the clergy.

The Diocese of Iran is one of four Dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Christians have been in this area from earliest times, and the indigenous Churches continue as minorities. When the country's regime changed under the Is-

lamic revolution, a small church was left behind. They now have four places to operate from and serve the remnant of God's people. Financial support is needed for deacons in the Diocese.

Please consider these requests from Anglican Missions, take an envelope and return it to me or any Council member on or before Easter Day.

John Hyatt

Cluster meeting:

The next meeting of the NorthWest LSM Cluster will be at St Chad's, Huapai, on Wednesday 16th March, 11am to 2.30pm.

Topic for the morning session is "Exploring trends in LSM," with a special invitation to those in charge of music. They'd like to know numbers by Monday 14th March.

They're a lively likeable bunch at Huapai, so it would be good to have a sizeable team there.

New City Missioner:

Our best wishes and prayers go to Chris Farelly newly appointed to this important position. He's currently working as CEO of Manaia Health in Northland, but he has a long history of work in social development overseas.