



St Peter's Caversham

www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

The Pebble

3 December 2017

Advent 1

Today's Gospel Passage

Christian teachers and preachers are often terrified by Mark 13 and other New Testament apocalyptic passages. This is so because the concepts and images seem very foreign and because throughout the centuries these texts have been misused by "false messiahs and false prophets" to manipulate people and even to convince them to perform destructive acts.

Nevertheless Mark 13 plays an important role in Christian theology and life and should be taken seriously...

Mark 13 uses the conventions of apocalyptic to address Christians who have undergone suffering for the name of Jesus and can expect even more. These people constituted a tiny minority in the Roman empire and necessarily place their hope of vindication in God. In the apocalyptic vision they found a reason for Jesus' suffering and their own as well as a promise that their suffering would soon end in glory. The language of Jewish apocalyptic – the kingdom of God, Messiah and Son of Man, resurrection, the last judgement – provided many of their most important theological ideas. The conviction that the world would be transformed and that they would reign with the risen Jesus in glory gave them a horizon of hope against which they could interpret their present sufferings, and the insistence on constant vigilance helped them to find significance and ethical direction in their actions in the present.

The Gospel of Mark, John R. Donahue, S.J. Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.

Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today.
The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered
in the Lady Chapel during Communion. Everyone
is warmly invited to Morning Tea after the Solemn
Sung Eucharist

THE LITURGY FOR TODAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (1662)
10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist
5.00 pm Evensong and Benediction

HYMNS:

18 Ye servants of the Lord
405 Lord of the boundless curves of space (T.483)
3 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
249 Round me falls the night

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Isaiah 63: 16-17, 19](#)

The response to [Psalm 80](#) is:

**Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

[1 Corinthians 1: 3-9](#)

[Mark 13: 33-37](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

[Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11](#)

[2 Peter 3: 8-14](#)

[Mark 1: 1-8](#)

PARISH NEWS

Evensong and Benediction tonight at 5 pm followed by a social gathering in the lounge.

Omit the Gloria in Advent A reminder that we omit saying or singing the Gloria in Advent as it is a penitential season.

The final Caversham lecture for this year On Tuesday Dr Margo Barton, who teaches fashion at the Otago Polytechnic,

will speak about her Citizen Stylist project initiated in response to comments from the public such as “love emerging fashion, but would never wear it” and from emerging designers like “my collection is too conceptual to be worn by anyone except models.” She may bring a few items so the audience can have a dress up. This will be at 7.30 pm in the parish lounge.

Lectures on the website You can view this year’s lectures on our website thanks to the splendid efforts of Shelley and David Scoular.

Make hope my story The Christian World Service appeal envelope in your Pebble shows us a young Syrian refugee who can focus on a maths problem rather than the troubles at home thanks to the work of the Department of Palestinian Refugees. At the end of 2017 the world is looking a little more unstable. Your donation to the Christmas Appeal will make the hopes and prayers of people facing violence, poverty and injustice come true. Years of experience and strong local networks give CWS partners the local advantage. Please give generously to the 2017 Christmas Appeal.

Vicar on leave Fr Hugh will be away in Wellington visiting his grandchildren from Wednesday until Saturday afternoon.

Guest preacher Next Sunday’s preacher will be Brian Kilkelly.

Defibrillator arrived The defibrillator and its case have arrived and will soon be installed in the Link.

Brass cleaning There will be brass cleaning on Friday 22 December. Gay Webb welcomes helpers for this.

Vestry news It was decided to have just one Service on Christmas day at 9 am, which would be a Book of Common Payer 1662 Communion Service with Carols. It was noted that an anonymous donor had paid the \$500 required for the purchase of new tables for the hall.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Claire Johnston, Cherry Gordon, Margaret Sterling, Joan Dutton, Mahlia and Sheree Napier, Paul Hill, Max Stacey and Jonathan Gillies.

Pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time Lawrence McGoverne, Geoffrey Hughes (Priest), David MacGill, Douglas Earwaker and John Carruthers.

The challenge of conciliarity Last Tuesday’s Caversham lecture was one of the best attended we have had with somewhere between 60 and 70 present. An issue that remains with this writer is one raised by the second to last ARCIC document *The Gift of Authority* that came out in 2005. It stated that for both churches to accept the universal primacy of the Bishop of Rome they would need to situate such a ministry within a church that took seriously conciliarity and synodality. The Pope would have to work closely with Synods of Bishops and with Councils of the whole church. For the Roman Catholic Church that would mean allowing local Synods of Bishops much more devolved power to rule and guide the church, and allowing lay people a greater say in the decision making processes of the church. For Anglicans this would involve the challenge of making the Instruments of Communion, the Anglican Consultative Council, the Primates’ meetings and the Lambeth Conference to be more than consultative and advisory meetings designed to strengthen the bonds of affection. They would have to become decisive decision making bodies with power to make things happen, that this might involve saying “no” to certain developments and having the authority to correct anomalies and discipline wayward behaviour. Anglicans are deeply reluctant to do this and so they have a weak ecclesiology. The result is that they struggle to deal with internal international conflicts and are hindered in their attempts to advance into organic union with the Catholic Church.

Parish Contacts.

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