

THE WAITING IS OVER—THE SPIRIT HAS COME

On the day of Pentecost the disciples are shut away indoors, anxious and waiting to see what will happen next. The future is uncertain. Jesus is no longer with them in the flesh, but they wait and hope and trust. As they wait they experience an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit and empowerment that they might be Christ's "witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth".

We can relate to this, I think, more now than ever before. We have all done a fair amount of watching and waiting anxiously indoors over these past weeks. Waiting to see how many cases there were each day, waiting for the curve to flatten, waiting for the government to change the alert level... We continue to wait for the pace of change to slow down, to see if and when our borders will be opened and for a game changing vaccine.

Our patience and our prayer have been rewarded with the slowing and then halting of the spread of Covid-19 in our communities and in our nation. We too, like those first disciples, have each experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit of God in new and different ways.

Some of you have discovered the joy of quietly reading the scriptures and praying on a regular basis at home. Some of you have noticed new things about God's presence and action in the creation and the neighbourhood which surrounds you. Some of you have been surprised to learn that there can be a sense of spiritual connection in an electronic space. Some of you have spoken of a renewed sense of just how central the spirituality of gathered community is to your faith. Today your patience is rewarded. Today, together we gather together, the body of the Christ, the Church, to be nourished, empowered and renewed, as we continue our work as the incarnate people of God, spreading God's love to the ends of our neighbourhood, work places, schools, communities and beyond.

It is good to be home.

The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross



St Andrew's
Welcomes You

**31ST MAY 2020
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Readings: Psalm 104:24-34,35b / Acts 2:1-21 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39 (or John 20:19-23)

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS

Monday

Psalm 91:1-2,14-end / 2 Peter 1:2-7 / Mark 12:1-12

Steadfast God, you come amongst us offering abundant life, and yet we destroy you. Challenge us afresh, that we may become your people of peace. With the help of your Holy Spirit, may we experience your divinity present within our humanity. With Jesus we pray. Amen

Tuesday

Psalm 90:1-4,10,14,16 / 2 Peter 3:12-15a,17-end / Mark 12:13-17

Trustworthy God, you call us to give to you that which comes from you alone – our love, hope, patience, and our lives of quality living. Help us to wait in expectant faith. Be our wisdom and guide so that we may always choose to live lives of faithful loving. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Wednesday

Psalm 123 / 2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12 / Mark 12:18-27

God our hope, we place our trust in you. When we fear life, allay our fears with a reminder of your love and grace. When we fear death, come amongst us anew with your message of hope. For you are our beginning and our end, our first and our last. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Thursday

Psalm 25:4-12 / 2 Timothy 2:8-15 / Mark 12:28-34

Liberating God, you call us to love you and to love our neighbour. You remind us to present ourselves to you as people of love. When we feel ashamed, challenge us afresh. When we lose heart, renew our strength; for you are our God and we worship you. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Friday

Psalm 119:161-168 / 2 Timothy 3:10-end / Mark 12:35-37

Holy One, you come amongst us in surprising ways. You understand that we often struggle to understand your ways. Open our hearts and minds that we might serve you faithfully, today and every day. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Saturday

Psalm 71:7-16 / 2 Timothy 4:1-8 / Mark 12:38-end

Persistent Presence, arouse your hope within us anew. Remind us that you are with us always. May our ears 'itch' with a longing for your Good News. Like the poor widow, may we live that Good News, both in our poverty, and from our abundance, serving you faithfully always. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Source: Our Daily Bread Jenny Harrison and John McAlpine

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- * Karen is back in the office and the hall has re-opened to users.
- * Tuesday Coffee is starting again this week, 2nd June at 11am, at Hollywood Bakery, 2/100 Pah Road, Royal Oak. Everyone is welcome!
- * The Wednesday Service will resume on 3rd June at 10am.
- * Sunday School will resume on Sunday 14th June.
- * Ginger 'n Bread—plans are underway to gather again soon, so watch this space!
- * Vestry will meet in person on Tuesday 2nd June.

Please RSVP for church next Sunday 7th June. Email the office by Monday 4pm.

A big thank you to everyone who helped get us ready to open again!



TE PAPAPA SCHOOL DONATIONS

Te Papapa School are welcoming contributions for the breakfast club again. Also, they aren't presently receiving their lunch sponsorship so anything that could go on a lunch sandwich would also be welcome, tuna, spreadable cheese, peanut butter, etc. Many thanks to all who help in this way.



CHORAL EVENSONG HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Trinity Sunday 7th June, Cathedral Nave at 5pm

Due to Government restrictions please register online to attend. Registrations close Sat 6th 5pm.

Go to www.holytrinity.org.nz to book online.

LOST CHURCH GARDEN HOSE

If anyone knows the whereabouts of a very long green hose left behind shrubbery in the St Andrew's Garden could you please let the office know.

SUNDAY SERVICE VIA ZOOM

Sunday's service will be zoomed for those of you that are still worshipping from home. To join a Zoom Meeting go to www.zoom.us or dial from a landline (09) 884 6780.

Sunday 9.30am Worship
Meeting ID # 664-003-107

TUESDAY COFFEE
HOLLYWOOD BAKERY
2/100 Pah Road Royal Oak
at 11am
All welcome!



PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Mailing Address: 100 St Andrews Road, Epsom, 1023

Parish Office: Karen Ross (09) 638 8264

office@standrewsepsom.org.nz

Tuesday to Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm

www.standrewsepsom.org.nz

Vicar: The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

Vicarage (09) 623 2290 Mobile 021 921 080

vicar@standrewsepsom.org.nz Please note Monday is Sarah's day off.

Deacon Assistant: The Reverend Julian Morris (09) 638 8264

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lucy Best (09) 520 0093 Mobile 021 350 480

Services: Sundays 9:30am in Church and via Zoom

Wednesday Prayers 10am

**If you would like to give via Automatic Payment or Direct Credit
The Parish bank account is: 06 0103 0780441 00**



**One Can -
Two Can
2020 Appeal**



Help support Aucklanders in desperate need by supporting the Auckland City Mission's One Can - Two Can 2020 Appeal

Please bring any non-perishable food items with you to church. This year's appeal will run from Tuesday 2 - Sunday 14 June and all donations will be collected by the Mission from the 15th June onwards.

Thank you for your generosity!

PS. New World are running a national food drive for the Mission and similar organisations from 28 June - 12 July. If you would like to take part in that instead of / or in addition to One Can - Two Can, please keep an eye on their website and social media channels to find out more information later in June.

CEMETERY REPAIR WORK

Work is underway to upgrade the cemetery. You may see that a lot of plaques have been removed as the area is prepared for the contractor. These plaques are being held securely and will be replaced accurately when the work is finished.