

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER
THE FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

9.00 am Eucharist – Christ Church, Whangarei

Presider: *The Reverend Alan Burnett*

5.00 pm Messy Church – Parish Hall, Whangarei.

Officiant: *The Reverend Alan Burnett*



Nehemiah 2: 1-8;

Psalm 137: 1-6;

Luke 9: 57 to end.

Sentence: Satisfy us in the morning, O Lord with your constant love. Teach us to know how few are our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Psalm 90:14, 12*

Collect: God, giver of grace, you are kind to all people, gracious beyond our understanding. Help us to be grateful for all we have been given and gracious, merciful and generous to all in our community. Teach us the ways of your Kingdom where the last will be first and the first will be last. We ask this through Jesus our Lord who reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

WELCOME TO WHANGAREI ANGLICAN

I have often wondered if it is possible to ask questions in the life hereafter. Or whether there would even be a need to ask questions. If it is, there are countless people I'd like to speak with and a lot of questions, but today, as we remember St Francis of Assisi, I would like to ask what he thinks of it all. What would he think of being remembered? What would he think of the legacy that he has left spiritually and in monastic orders? What would he think of his name being known in almost all corners of the globe? And, most importantly, as I imagine Luna, our black lab, running madly through Christ Church, what would he think of how strongly he is associated with the ritual we are to go through this morning, the blessing of animals. Knowing what I do of St Francis, I am sure he would humbly respond and make me question my own motivations for asking such a question. In part, I ask because he achieved so much else that is worthy of remembrance. Leaving aside the establishment of a spiritual pathway and order that has served the church and the world fruitfully for centuries, Francis, at least to my mind, should be first and foremost remembered as a builder of the church. Legend tells of a vision St Francis had in which God called him to rebuild the small chapel of San Damiano and the tireless effort, self-sacrifice and spiritual revival that followed. While he went on to learn that it was this later, spiritual revival that was God's ultimate aim, it was his willingness to act in faith regardless that opened him to the work that God wished to have done. As we reflect on Francis today, whether that be with a beloved pet or wondering why your neighbour's dog is panting down the aisle, I believe it is Francis' faithfulness that we must take away. Would he have a problem being remembered as the saint that liked animals? Absolutely not. After all, in those very animals that are with us today we see expressed the same kind of faithfulness God calls us to and Francis challenged us with. A faithfulness that says, no matter how you may have spoken to them a moment ago, 'I love you and want you to know me'. Much like God's faithfulness toward us.

WHAT'S ON TODAY

PARISH FORUM MEETING: Following our 9am service at Christ Church this morning you are welcome to join us for our monthly parish forum meeting at which we speak to some of the issues we are facing together as a church and have the opportunity to ask those questions we have not yet heard answered (or perhaps even asked). At today's meeting, we will be particularly focusing on the draft parish profile that the nominations committee has put together, and look at some of the financial forecasting work that Vestry has done to understand what must be achieved. Some of this information is available in the foyer. We hope to begin before 10:30am.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS: During our 9am service this morning at Christ Church, you and your two, four or even eight-legged and winged friends can receive a blessing in remembrance of St Francis. While a wonderful tradition in itself, it is an important reminder of our connection with all creation.

MESSY CHURCH: Join us this afternoon from 4pm for Messy Church as we gather particularly around our pets and creation. In addition to an afternoon of fun, games, worship and activities, you will also be able to enjoy a petting zoo and even a pony ride or two! Come along with friends and family and enjoy the afternoon, 4pm to 6pm, which concludes with a meal together in the hall. Please bring along a plate to share if you can. Contact Rev Alan Burnett for more information.

FOR THE DIARY

BIBLE STUDY: You are invited to join a weekly Bible Study group that meets in the Selwyn Chapel at Christ Church, Whangarei. Jenny Peterson hosts the group that will work through study material provided by InterVarsity Press, beginning with their booklet, "Faith." Feel free to come to Morning Prayer or for a cup of tea beforehand. It is envisaged that the group will meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9:30am.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING: On Sunday, 8 October you are invited to join us during the 9am service at Christ Church as we commission some of our young people for their mission trip to Fiji. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the youth will be able to engage with and support St Christopher's Children's Home, St Mark's parish, Suva and the community of Nadawa that visited Whangarei in late 2015. They will also help to build and prepare the church plant of St Gabriel's.

FAREWELL LUNCH: On Sunday, 8 October following our 9am service at Christ Church, you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for a lunch to farewell the Reverend Alan Burnett and his wife, Hayley. We ask that you bring a plate along to share, with hot food being provided. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible for this farewell. Please RSVP to the Parish Office.

WHANGAREI ANGLICAN NEWS

VOLUNTEER COOK(S) SOUGHT FOR SELWYN CENTRE: Do you love to cook? Have you an ability to prepare a meal for a large number of people? Then we would love to hear from you. The Selwyn Centre, which meets every Monday, is seeking a volunteer or volunteers to prepare lunch for the wonderful group that gathers each week. If you're interested, please contact Alan Burnett, details on back of newsletter.

BISHOP JIM WITH US ON 15 OCTOBER: On Sunday, 15 October Bishop Jim will be with us to preside and preach at the 9am service at Christ Church. Bishop Jim will be with us several times over the remainder of the year to relive Rev Peter Bargh.

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH: Over the next few months, the diocese, vestry and parish nominators, along with the wider church community, will be busy considering our future as Whangarei Anglican. Many of us are already praying about this process and for the future of Anglicanism in Whangarei as well as that the right people may be in positions of leadership. We invite you to conclude your prayers with this communal collect:

Gracious God, you have always been faithful to your people in Whangarei, inspiring Anglicans to form communities, committees and buildings; may your Holy Spirit keep us grateful for what was, mindful of what is, and aware of what is needed to faithfully be your people these days and into the future – may we look through the windshield and not at the rear-view mirror; this we ask through Jesus Christ our Mediator. Amen.

At our Parish Forum meeting today we will be exploring the draft Parish Profile before it is released, as well as considering financial forecasts and budget analysis that Vestry has done leading up to it.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

In the Worldwide Church, we pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby as well the Diocese of Southeast Florida, The Rt. Revd Leopold Frade and Coadjutor Bishop, The Rt. Revd Peter Eaton, and the dioceses of South-Eastern Mexico, the Rt. Revd Benito Juarez-Martinez and Western Mexico, the Rt. Revd Lino Rodriguez-Amaro.

In our Anglican Church, we pray for our Archbishops Philip and Winston. In our Auckland Diocese, we pray for Bishops Ross and Jim, and for Bishop Kito. We pray for the mission and ministries of the people of the parishes of Takapuna, Rev. Jonathan Gale, Vicar; Milford, Rev Grant Robertson, Vicar; and Devonport, Charmaine Braatvedt, Vicar.

In our World, we pray for the people of Bangladesh, India and Nepal facing the devastating flooding of the monsoon season and the Muslim Rohingya people of Myanmar being massacred by the army there or facing food shortages and a lack of medical aid in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

In our Community, we pray for those who are hungry and homeless – two markers of poverty. May their needs be met through those who offer Christ-like service, as Soul Food do; We also pray for the nurses and hospital staff who have faced an extra busy time lately as the cold Winter takes its toll.

We Keep in Our Prayers Max; Ngaire; Nancy; Kirsty; Anne; Carla; Sue; Barbara; Helen; Ruth & David; Yolanda; Margaret; Jeda; Jenny; Colin; Marjory; Hazel; Pauline; Win & John; Jane, Willy & Cody; Lynne; Neil; Robin, Rita.

We Pray for Those Who Have Died: We remember Eileen Redfern, Bunny Nisbett and Marie Grant and all those whose anniversaries fall at this time. May they, and all the departed faithful, rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Community Prayer Chain: If you know of any person in need of prayer through sickness or any other reason, please call Rosemary Blackwell so that their name can be included in our prayers. Her number is (09) 435 3664.

Pastoral Care Coordinator: If you know of any members of our community who are unwell, unable to make it to church or have been admitted to hospital, please contact Julianna Marshall, (09) 437 2988 and she will arrange a visit/home communion.

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2017

9.00 am Eucharist – Christ Church, Whangarei
11.00 am Farewell Lunch – Parish Hall, Whangarei
8.00 pm Contemplative Service – Selwyn Chapel, Whangarei

Readings, Sunday 8 October 2017

Exodus 20: 1-4,7-9, 12-20; Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matthew 21: 33-46

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRIST CHURCH, WHANGAREI

Eucharist – Every Sunday, 9am
Messy Church – Second Sunday, 4pm
Contemplative Service – Second Sunday, 8pm
Contemporary Service – Third Sunday, 4pm
Evensong – Fourth Sunday (See Newsletters), 5pm

ALL SAINTS, MAUNGAKARAMEA

Eucharist – Second Saturday, 5pm

MIDWEEK SERVICES IN SELWYN CHAPEL, CHRIST CHURCH

Morning Prayer – Tuesday and Wednesday, 8am
Eucharist – Wednesday, 12:15pm
BCP Litany and Holy Communion – Friday, 10:15am

THE WHANGAREI ANGLICAN TEAM

Ministry Team:	The Reverend Alan Burnett, (09) 437 6087 ext. 800# alan@whangareianglican.org.nz The Reverend Peter Bargh, (09) 437 6087 ext. 801# peter@whangareianglican.org.nz
Parish Administration:	(09) 437 6084 admin@whangareianglican.org.nz
Office:	Open from 9am to 12pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2b Kamo Road, Whangarei (09) 437 6087 office@whangareianglican.org.nz
Priests' Warden:	Marshall Walton marshall@whangareianglican.org.nz
People's Warden	Catherine Anderson catherine@whangareianglican.org.nz
Parish Treasurer	Bruce McGregor treasurer@whangareianglican.org.nz
Parish Vestry	Contact all Members governance@whangareianglican.org.nz