

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD MARCH 2018

Mid—Lent pause for reflection

March is here, earlier than ever it seems, so the autumn equinox, 21st March, is just around the corner.

Later this week, the 15th, is in the ancient Roman calendar the Ides of March. “Beware the Ides of March” the fortune teller warned Julius Caesar, as you might remember from your school days Shakespeare. He didn’t listen.

But today is the middle Sunday in Lent, sometimes marked as “Refreshment Sunday”, chocolate and ice-cream if you’ve given them up for Lent!



It’s also Mothering Sunday, a day when we remember three figures: our own mothers, Mary the mother of Jesus, and our mother church.

In the UK and some other parts of the world it’s Mothers’ Day, the religious and the secular celebrations combined.

In New Zealand as in the USA we celebrate Mother’s Day on 13th May. Once again we plan to take posies to the village to give away free.

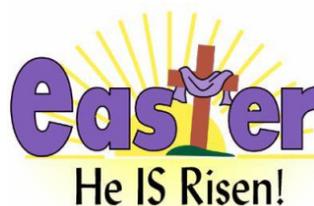
During Lent we’ve tried to mark the significance of the season in a variety of ways. As Richard Giles says, “No one should be in any doubt that we have entered another, quite different, stage of the journey.”

So we’ve stripped the space of any decoration, including floral arrangements.

We’ve brought the altar further forward so the congregation can encircle it at communion.

We also introduced some times of silence at significant places in the liturgy. And you will have noted the font placed conspicuously empty.

But we know how the story ends: the triumphant time of Easter approaches!



Annual General Meeting today after church

Business:

To hear reports

To receive financial statements

To elect officers

Please all stay!

Diary notes

March

24 **Easter story**

25 **Palm Sunday**

29 **Maundy Th**

30 **Good Friday**

April

1 **Easter**

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A special welcome to our visitors today

St Francis members brave the storm to serve pancakes to Titirangi

We kicked off Lent with our usual pancakes in the village on Shrove Tuesday.



Sally, Eve and Lindsay served up some tasty dishes out side Barfoot and Thompson: the waterfall from the gutters meant our usual spot outside Glovers was impossible.

And this wintry blast meant passers—by were less plentiful than

usual. However, we made our presence felt for a couple of hours, The previous Sunday we'd made pancakes at St Francis after the service, an event the congregation seemed to enjoy. Thanks to all concerned.

On Ash Wednesday evening there were about 13 at a simple service at St Francis which included the imposition of ashes.

As tradition suggests, these are made by burning some of last year's palm crosses.

We'll have some new ones for you in a couple of weeks.

“...our presence felt..”

Natives skilfully kept under control

“Let there be light, and there was light.” We hope you noticed the difference when you arrived at church this morning.

Glyn and his team of commercial tree carers have opened up the bush around St Francis with a noticeable improvement in the amount of daylight getting through.

Maybe you noticed too the flourishing weeds in parts of our premises. We'll be having a working bee soon to attack these.

Neil notes that the Lenten studies of Rowan Williams's text are now finished. Some thoughtful discussion is reported.

The next study, post Easter, is “in the pipeline.”



St Francis Liturgy

You will have followed the ongoing story of our St Francis Liturgy. “Life is never pure and rarely simple” Oscar Wilde said.

It's not quite back to the drawing board, but we do have to make some changes .



We expect to use it next week, but don't hold your breath!

Watch for various important coming events at St Francis

As we noted last month, the Mostly Craft team are having an "Easter Story" session on Saturday 24th. March, 1.30-3.30pm.



It will be the Palm Sunday story leading into the Easter story. Do come, and bring friends and neighbours.

Sunday 25th March is Palm Sunday, so we'll have the distribution and blessing of Palm Crosses and the ceremonial procession.

We'll include the reading of the Passion story, an effective way to conclude the service.

On Maundy Thursday we'll gather at 6pm for the foot-washing, the stripping of the altar, and the simple Last Supper meal.

There will a Procession of Witness at 9.30am on Good Friday morning from the village down to St Francis, followed by a special Good Friday service. David is leading the team shaping this.

Easter Sunday will begin with the Vigil at 7.30am, led by Lindsay, with breakfast to follow, leading into our Easter celebration at 9.30am where Christine will preside.



Conference brings Diocese together

Every year we look forward to the annual Auckland Diocesan Ministry Conference. It's distinct from the annual Local Shared Ministry Conference, held towards the end of the year, and usually a similarly stimulating event.

The programme, "What's Past is Prologue," looked promising: key note sessions from Claire Szabo, CEO of Habitat for Humanity, on Adaptive Leadership, a visit to the pop-up Globe, with sessions from Miles Gregory of the Globe, and Jolyon Allen from the University of Auckland.

Christine and I attended the day sessions on Wednesday, while Edward was there throughout.

Unfortunately the acoustics of the cathedral nave were not conducive to clear reception. Claire, a lovely warm personality, was not really able to do justice to her content, which fortunately was well covered by her handout.

Edward found the acoustics for the Thursday sessions rather challenging too.

A pity. Last year I reported that the conference was "the best I can remember." Now let's look forward to 2019!

Lindsay Nash



"...an effective way..."

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Worship Times:
Sundays 9.30am
3pm last Sunday

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Readings for March:

18th Passion Sunday Jeremiah 31:31-34; Heb 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
25th Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philipp 2:5-11, Mark 11:1-11
30th Good Friday: special service

April 1st Vigil 7.30am These lectionary readings will not necessarily be used during the Vigil: Exodus 14:10-end;15:20-21;Rom 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-8

April 1st Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

Prayers please for: Susan Wightman, Dorothy Ashbolt, Joyce Daniels, Joyce McNeil, Lindsay and Christine Nash.

Following the news of Lindsay's illness last week, Christine and Lindsay have been overwhelmed and moved by your prayers and loving support. It means so much. We want to carry on as usual until we see where we are heading with treatments Thank you.

News and notes from here and there

Friendship Circle:

This is on hold for a while, says Margaret. We'll keep you informed.

Music Group:

The special team of Freda, Eva, Sarah and Margaret is going well. They've met twice, working through our orange hymn book to sort out well-known, appropriate hymns that we can sing heartily.



They're also listing less well-known hymns that are worth practising and learning. Our warm thanks for their efforts.

Services at Crestwood:

With the St Francis population at Crestwood increasing, it seemed a good idea to investigate the possibility of holding the occasional service there.

As Crestwood lies in the neighbouring parish of New Lynn, the MST will be corresponding with the vicar there, the Rev Thomas Thomas, to ob-

tain his approval. The Bishops see no problems here.



Council Corner

We now have a brand new 55 inch TV supplied by insurance and a generous donation from Val Aitken. Very many thanks, Val.



As noted earlier, Tree Culture have trimmed some trees from the front and side of the church to create more light and hopefully more sun. There is quite a lot of mulch, so if you would like some, help yourself.

The full Council and Treasurer's report will be presented at the AGM today.

