



THE WAIKATO CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST PETER

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

Dean The Very Rev'd Wendy Scott



Dean's Message for the Sunday after Ascension 24.05.2020 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Dear Friends

It's so good to connect again with you, for what I'm hoping will be the last time in this way, I am hopeful that we will be able to gather next Sunday for Pentecost.

We enter into a time of prayer with the Archbishop of Canterbury's call to pray across the globe that Thy Kingdom Come. We make a commitment to pray during the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

We are all asked to be witnesses to what God has done in our lives, proclaiming our belief that Jesus does make a difference and we get to experience that difference in and through the Holy Spirit.

Please also pray for the life of our church, when we return to the building what will be different for us? How will we live our lives having experienced the lockdown and the many blessings we have had? If you have lost your job or know of someone who has, our prayers are with you, please don't hesitate to share your experience with us so we can pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will be with you at this time.

Blessings, Dean Wendy

Prayer resource for the Sunday after Ascension (7th Sunday of Easter)

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Amen.

(Mt 28:20)

Ascension marks the end of Jesus Christ's physical bodily presence on earth, but leaves us with the assurance of His continued presence in spirit, and His promise that the Father would send His Spirit to 'clothe us with power'. The Gospel reading set for today is Luke's first account of the Ascension (the second being in Acts 2) and contains Jesus' final teaching to His disciples of His place in God's plan as revealed through the prophets, and the commission He gave them to be His witnesses and to proclaim reconciliation through His name to the whole world.

Take the time to read the following passage from Luke 24 slowly and carefully two or three times, paying attention to any words, phrases or events that particularly strike you.

Luke 24:44-53:

Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Think about the words or particular phrases that struck you in this episode. Imagine yourself in the group of disciples, listening to Jesus' words. The joy of the Resurrection has not left them, and they are waiting for what will come next in this extraordinary adventure they have shared.

- What do you suppose their experience of Jesus' Ascension meant to them?
- What does it mean to you?
- Have you had experiences of the Holy Spirit and if so, what impact has the promised Spirit had on your life?

Assured of Jesus' continued presence, pray for the world, that Jesus' proclamation of reconciliation through His Name may be fulfilled for all. Let your prayers pass into silent wonder and gratitude for Jesus' continuing spiritual presence and for His promise for yourself and for us all.

Other readings for today are:

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
- Ephesians 1:15-23

As a conclusion, pray the collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter:

Holy God, you have not left us alone but promised your abiding protection. In all we face, grant us such a knowledge of your presence and abiding care, that nothing can destroy our trust. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer Points:

Each Sunday we pray for our world, our country and our own needs.

Please pray: God in your mercy, hear our prayer

I want to commend to you undertaking a daily rhythm of prayer at this time, it can help give you a sense of grounding for your day especially while we're in isolation. There are a number of options on the diocesan web site. If you don't have access, sitting quietly at 9am & 7pm, lighting a candle, reading the scriptures, (the daily readings are provided here for you, praying and giving thanks for the ways God has blessed your day.



Check out our Facebook
and website for updated
information

**St Peter's Cathedral,
Hamilton**
www.stpeter.org.nz

Morning Prayer for the week commencing 25th May:

Monday 25th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 93 • Numbers 22:1-35 • Luke 7:36-end Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers 27:15-end • 1 Corinthians 3 	Tuesday 26th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 99 • Numbers 22:36-23:12 • Luke 8:1-15 Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Samuel 10:1-10 • 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 	Wednesday 27th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 29 • Numbers 23:13-end • Luke 8:16-25 Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Kings 19:1-18 • Matthew 3:13-end
Thursday 28th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 24 • Number 24 • Luke 8:26-39 Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ezekiel 11:14-20 • Matthew 9:35-10:20 	Friday 29th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 28 • Numbers 27:12-end • Luke 8:40-end Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ezekiel 36:22-28 • Matthew 12:22-32 	Saturday 30th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 43 • Numbers 32:1-27 • Luke 9:1-17 Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micah 3:1-18 • Ephesians 6:10-20

For our children:

Check out the STRANDZ website: www.strandz.org.nz