



# 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 Third Sunday of Easter 26.04.2020

The road to Emmaus is the classic discipleship text, the travellers meet the risen Christ on the road, they share their story of despair with him and then he responds by sharing the bigger story, the God story that helps clarify for them that God is a God who works throughout time for the good of his people.

It is in their hunger to have him stay with them that they offer hospitality to the stranger.

Jesus actions are so familiar to us, he blesses the bread, breaks it and offers it and it is in this action that they recognise him. It is this sacramental act that we hold dear to us every Sunday as Anglicans. It is an integral part of our tradition that we remember God's big story in our Eucharistic prayer and we too have the opportunity of meeting Jesus this way.

I don't think in all honesty that I have gone this long without receiving Communion, I know that I'm not the only one who misses this part of experiencing God's love but when it's safe I know that we will be together again and we can meet as resurrection people at the table of our Lord.

Bless you all

Arohanui, Wendy.

## Prayer resource for the Third Sunday of Easter

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen in deed! Alleluia!

Eastertide extends for six weeks from Easter Day, and the readings encourage us to continue to rejoice with the disciples in our Lord's resurrection. Even though we cannot yet meet again as the body of Christ in St Peter's Cathedral, let us individually ponder that mystery, knowing that while separate we are at one with the whole Church in this rejoicing.

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. O praise the Lord!'

*Ps 150:6*

The Gospel reading set for today continues the accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples. This time it is the familiar story of two followers of Jesus' encounter with him on the road to Emmaus, a village a few kilometres away from Jerusalem. If you chose this passage on Easter Day, you might like instead to read the first twelve verses of the same chapter, and contemplate the scene and the encounters depicted there.

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 24:24-27, 30-32 (Jesus has joined the travellers to Emmaus, and they are explaining to him what has been happening in Jerusalem.)

"Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

Think about the words or particular phrases that struck you.

- How would you have felt if you had been one of the two travellers whom Jesus met on the road?
- The passage reveals that through the prophets, God had promised this victory. Are we 'slow of heart' in understanding and believing God's promises?
- What would you like to have said to Jesus upon recognising him?

Form your thoughts into a prayer to Jesus about your own reaction to the story and to Easter, pray also for the St Peter's community, more widely the Church in the whole world, and indeed for God's gift of peace for all nations and peoples.

Let your prayers pass into silent wonder at the mystery and what it means to each of us.

Readings for today are:

- Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Ps 116:1-4, 12-19
- 1 Peter 1:17-23
- Luke 24:13-35

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

*Loving Shepherd, you lead us nowhere you yourself have not been. Call us by name, lift us high upon your shoulders, and bring us to the fold. Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, 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](http://www.stpeter.org.nz)**

Morning Prayer for the week commencing 27th April		
<b>Monday 27th April:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 96</li> <li>• Exodus 19</li> <li>• Luke 1:1-25</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 28hApril:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 98</li> <li>• Exodus 20:1-21</li> <li>• Luke 1:26-38</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 29thApril:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 105</li> <li>• Exodus 24</li> <li>• Luke 1:39-56</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 30th April:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 136</li> <li>• Exodus 25:1-22</li> <li>• Luke 1:57 - end</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 1st May:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 139, 146</li> <li>• Proverbs 4:10-18</li> <li>• James 1:1-12</li> </ul>	<b>Saturday 2nd May:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalm 110</li> <li>• Exodus 29:1-0</li> <li>• Luke 2:21-40</li> </ul>

**For our children:**

Check out the STRANDZ website: [www.strandz.org.nz](http://www.strandz.org.nz)