



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 Good Friday:

E te whanau a te Karaiti

Tēnei te mihi ki a tātou katoa, mo te māuiui Covid-19

One year in ministry our local picture theatre offered the Mel Gibson version of the crucifixion as an afternoon screening. I thought it would be a good experience for Graeme and I to go together and see for ourselves what Hollywood had to say about the Jesus story.

I was confronted by the brutality, I spent a great deal of the movie with my eyes closed and crying. Such was the graphic nature the reality depicted on the screen from the story was that it was too much, too hard and too confronting.

This is his story that we are all invited into, it becomes our story, our pain, our suffering, our frailty and our death.

As a woman I identify with the women who stayed and watched and waited till he died. I imagine myself at the foot of the cross, bow my head and weep. How much does God love us?

Enough to send His son to experience our humanity, to allow us to have witnessed his divine nature, even as we turned our back on him and watch him die for us on the Cross.

May God watch over you, keep you and those you love safe, and the blessing of Father, Son and Holy Spirit be yours.

Arohanui, Wendy.

Prayer resource for Good Friday 10.04.2020

Despite our physical distance from each other we know we are united through the Communion of Saints with each other and with Him whose death we commemorate today. In that certainty and through the Holy Spirit we pray to our God for the world, for others and for ourselves.

The sole unremitting focus of Good Friday is the suffering and death of Jesus. We walk the way of the cross with Him, we try to comprehend the enormity of that ignominious end, yet we know that he was content to be betrayed, given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer and die for us.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? You are far from my plea and the cry of my distress.” Ps 22:1

Slowly and carefully read, two or three times the following excerpts from chapter 15 of the Passion according to Mark. Note carefully any words or phrases that particularly stand out for you.

Mark’s complete account of Jesus’ passion and death is at Mark 14:26 – 15:39.

“Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by who was coming from the country to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. And they crucified him. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabacthani?’ which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.” *Mk 15: 15, 17, 20 – 21, 24, 34, 37.*

Remembering what struck you in the reading, imagine the scene, the crowds, the noise; think about some of the individuals mentioned – Pilate, the soldiers, Simon of Cyrene. What upsets you, challenges you? Picture Jesus on the cross; is there anything you want to say to Him? Are you able to think beyond the familiarity of the account?

Other readings for Good Friday:

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Prayer

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Note

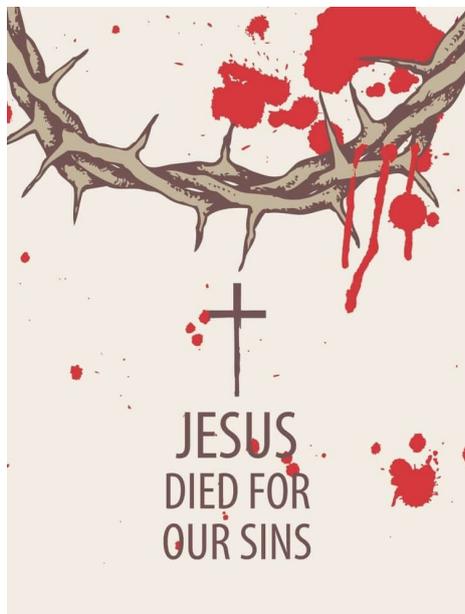
When the Passion is read at Good Friday services, that according to John is prescribed. Mark's account is used here as an alternative. The Passion according to John is at John 18:1 – 19:42.

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 13th April

<p>Monday 13th April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 111 • Exodus 12:1 - 14 • 1 Cor 15:1 - 11 	<p>Tuesday 14th April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 112 • Exodus 12:14 - 36 • 1 Cor 15:12 - 19 	<p>Wednesday 15th April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 113 • Exodus 12:37 - end • 1 Cor 15:20 - 28
<p>Thursday 16th April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 114 • Exodus 13:1 - 16 • 1 Cor 15: 29 - 34 	<p>Friday 17th April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 115 • Exodus 13:17 - 14:14 • 1 Cor 15:35 - 50 	<p>Saturday 18th April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 116 • Exodus 14:15 - end • 1 Cor 15:51 - end

For our children:

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