

St John the Baptist Anglican Church

Newsletter June 2019

47 Church Street, Northcote 0627

09 480 7568 / sjbanglican@gmail.com / www.stjohnsanglican.org.nz



A note from Stan...

The beginning of a new month comes around and I am reminded of my contribution to our newsletter. There are times when I might think up something that may be of interest. There are other occasions when I come across an article on social media that expresses itself in a way that is compatible to how I am thinking or at least provides comment that has another perspective. I was sent the following article via social media today. The media has been in a frenzy over the issues that follow and I found the author's viewpoint and evaluation totally refreshing as it comes from a Christian point of view. I will comment no more only to say that I hope you will read the article with an open mind.

"Folau and Tamaki take their lead on Jesus from a different place to me..."

There's a certain brand of Christianity that many New Zealanders will be familiar with recently. It's anchored to names like Israel Folau, Colin Craig and Brian Tamaki, and to issues over the past two decades such as prostitution reform, civil unions, and abortion reform. These men are my brothers but they take their lead on who Jesus is from a very different place to me.

They have their belief built in the 312AD values of Constantine, a Roman emperor who declared Christianity a state religion. When heading into battle, Constantine claims he saw a gleaming white cross in the sky with an almighty voice saying "by this you will conquer." It is this view – of the cross as the means by which we subdue the world into our vision of utopia – which has been so prevalent in the headlines recently. Followers of the carpenter from Nazareth – and indeed followers of all religion – have always been at their best when their influence comes from a place of humbly bearing the weight of a broken world together.

Christians are meant to be the steady current that runs beneath the ocean, not the mighty wave that dashes others within their wake. This is why the famous Nazarene talked of his movement through

metaphors like seeds and salt, not chariots and swords.

It's the relentless tide of Christians such as Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr and William Wilberforce who broke the bows of slavery and poverty. All of them would deeply disagree with euthanasia and late-term abortions, yet none of them built their platform upon it. Their credibility was passionate lives laid down for those who had no voice. Their credibility was the moral authority of surrendering their own lives to those who had nothing.

There are still many Christians in New Zealand who embody this other spirit. They have what some are beginning to call "a consistent life ethic". Yes, they are pro-life. But pro all of life. They think it is a profound hypocrisy to fight for longer prison sentences that take fathers away from their children while also campaigning to limit birth control. They think that we can't fight against abortion reform while simultaneously ignoring an epidemic of child poverty. They think we can't send our soldiers off to join wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while refusing to take in refugees from the countries we've intervened in.

This vision doesn't fit well into definitions of Left or Right, liberal or conservative. They won't receive invitations to join any party, be it blue or red or green or black. But this is what I think Folau, Craig and Tamaki have all missed; that the Christian voice was always meant to be at the outlying edges, and not the centre, of society. The message Jesus brought was good news for the voiceless, and so is always suited best to gentle whispers of hope rather than brazen declarations of damnation.

His vision was never of a rebellion, a political movement or – dare I say it – a religious institution. If it were, maybe he would have started his ministry in Rome rather than a backwater town on the banks of Lake Galilee.

The Emperor Constantine saw a vision of the cross with the words "by this you will conquer". I think he might have heard those very words, but he misunderstood the invitation. The picture of the cross was the self-sacrifice of a peasant on the hills outside the city who was profoundly misunderstood by the

political powers and establishment. It is this kind of moral authority – not the Tamaki kind – which Christianity must refind.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/113036229/folau-and-tamaki-take-their-lead-on-jesus-from-a-different-place-to-me>

The author of this article is Scottie Reeve, a Wellington-based priest. Published in the Dominion Post 28 May 2019

Kindly,

Stan



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH SEASONS NORTH SHORE & HIBISCUS COAST

Coordinator position: 10-12 hours per week (flexible)
Duties: Organisation of programmes, liaison with schools and Companions, and communication with parents

Remuneration: \$22-\$25 per hour

Excellent communication skills and the ability to lead a team of volunteers are required

Experience with a significant loss or change in your own life is important

Must be available during most school days, have own transport, and be willing to undertake training for 'Seasons for Growth' programmes

Applications close on 21 June 2019

For further information, job description and application form, contact:

Megan Bowden - phone: (09)4105117; mobile: 027 5629556; email: seasonsnorthshore@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

May has been routine duties aplenty. Apart from the regular Wednesday Morning Prayer other Services were at Shoal Bay Villa on 09th May and Northbridge on 16th May. Also, on Thursday 30th there was a Celebration of Holy Communion for Ascension Day. This included the traditional extinguishing of the Paschal Candle, a duty carried out by Don Joseph. The smoke rising symbolises that Jesus the Christ has ascended to heaven. Until next Easter the Paschal Candle is lit only for Baptisms, plus for Weddings and Funerals of the faithful.

Visiting has included five to people at home, and seven to the North Shore Hospital.

I missed attending the 8.00 a.m. Service on 12 May (Mothers' Day) as I went to Christchurch for a family celebration. The occasion was my eldest sister and brother-in-law's Golden Wedding. The other six members of the Bridal Party are still in Christchurch, so it was only me who had to travel. Thanks to Natalie's wonderful skill arranging photographs for publication you might like to "spot the differences" between 10 May 1969 and 50 years later.

The voluntary Inter-Faith work is progressing. I accepted an invitation to attend a Ramadan Iftar on the evening of 11 May. It was hosted by the Ahlul Bayt Centre – the local Shia Muslims. To my surprise I was a special guest who was gifted a lovely big "We Are One" carry bag.



In and around St John

Sunday Services: 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist.

Fourth-Sunday School: 4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Evening Women's Fellowship: 7.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Men's Supper & Bible Group: 7.30-9pm twice a month on a Wednesday. Check the weekly service sheet for each venue.

Hall and St Jude's Room Users

Sarah's OSCAR After School Care- Monday – Friday, 1.30pm-6pm (all rooms).

Sarah's OSCAR Holiday Programme –Monday – Friday, 7.30am-6pm during school holidays only (all rooms).

Babysitting Club – one Saturday per month – 4pm-9.30pm (hall and kitchen).

The Korean Yewon Church: Sunday, 9.30am-5pm (hall), 9am-11am (St Jude's Room).

Target Training – Wednesday, 4pm-9.30pm (St Jude's Room).

Positive Balance Yoga - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 6pm-8.30pm, in term time (hall and kitchen).

Weight Watchers – Thursday, 5.30pm-7.30pm (foyer).

Jumping Beans – Wednesday, 8.30am-1pm in term time (hall and kitchen).

St Thomas – Syrian Church – Sunday, 1pm-4pm (Chapel, foyer and St Jude's Room).

Al Anon family support group – Sunday, 3pm-5pm (St Jude's Room).

Scottish Country Dance - Wednesday 7.30pm – 10pm throughout the year (hall and kitchen).

English Folk Dance - 2nd Friday of each month, 7.30pm-10pm (hall and kitchen).

Early English Dance – 4th Friday of each month, 7pm-10pm (hall and kitchen).

Soccer for Tots – Saturday, 8.30am-10.30am during term time (hall and kitchen).

Northcote Steps – Friday, 7pm-10pm throughout the year (St Jude's Room).

Kaipatiki Community Facilities Trust – Preschool Play – Tuesday, 9am-1.30pm from 14th May (hall and kitchen).

Book Club – Wednesday, 7pm-9pm (foyer and small kitchen).

If you'd like to book the church, hall or St Jude's room, please email Jansyl Andrews at sjbanglican@gmail.com

Readings for the month

June 2 Easter 7

Reading: Acts 16: 16-34

Epistle: Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel: John 17: 20-26

June 9 The Day of Pentecost

Reading: Genesis 11: 1-9

Epistle: Acts 2: 1-21

Gospel: John 14: 8-17, 25-27

June 16 Trinity Sunday

Reading: Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31

Epistle: Romans 5: 1-5

Gospel: John 16: 12-15

June 23 Te Pouhere Sunday

Reading: Isaiah 42: 10-20

Epistle: Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel: Matthew 7: 24-29

June 30 13th Ordinary Sunday

Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14

Epistle: Galatians 5: 1, 13-25

Gospel: Luke 9: 51-62

July 7 14th Ordinary Sunday

Reading: 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Epistle: Galatians 6: 1-16

Gospel: Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20



MEN'S SUPPER & BIBLE READING GROUP

Join us for two gatherings in **JUNE**– on the Wednesday **12th** and Wednesday the **26th, May**. *Put these dates in your diary now.* These are an evening of chatting, stories, good discussion over a Bible chapter, and a great supper which we all bring and share and chat. Here are the chatty details.

Wed. 12th June

- We will meet at **Peter White's home**, 2/2, Milton Rd, (off Richmond St.) Northcote Point
- 7.30 – 9pm
- **Peter W** will chat about one of his favourite places he's visited and how it affected him
- We'll all chat about things we discover or rediscover in a Bible chapter. At the moment it's Johns Gospel and it's so interesting.

Wed. 26th June

- We will meet at **Peter White's home** again, 2/2 Milton Rd, Northcote Point.
- Again it's at 7.30 – 9pm
- **Richard L** will chat about one of his favourite places he's visited and the impact on him.
- And we'll read another Bible chapter and chat about that.

These are real "Blokes" evenings and a good time is always had by all.

If you haven't been before, you're most welcome.

Just bring some supper to share!! and chat.

Yes it's a **FREE** night out. Want to come along? Just call, Peter White 419 4380 or Richard Lewis 4199 026



EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet in the church foyer from 6pm, for a 6.30pm start, for our annual winter dinner on Tuesday 11th June.

Some of you have already indicated what you can bring for the dinner and I will be contacting everyone beforehand. Look forward to seeing you there!

Any queries please ring Rosemary: 4895830

FIND ST JOHN'S ON FACEBOOK!

Just go to www.facebook.com and search: @AnglicanChurchNorthcotePoint

Contacts

Vicar:

Rev Stan Pilbrow 480 7568

Wardens

Vicar's Warden: Doug Dempster 418 1448

People's Warden: Karen Perrett 418 3715

Pastoral Care:

Rev Vivienne Hill 441-4325

Synod Representatives

Peter Mundell 418 1443

Pam Patterson 418 1095

Fourth Sunday School

Karen Perrett 418 3715

Hall Hire

Jansyl Andrews 027 217 2627

Recorder

Wendy McPherson 473 3448

Women's Fellowship

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Men's Supper and Bible reading group

Peter White 419 4380

Catering Committee

Barbara McIlroy 418 4117

Office Admin, Newsletter and Website

Natalie Roffey 0226074376

Your newsletter is prepared by Natalie. You can contact Natalie by emailing her at sjbanglican@gmail.com. The newsletter is published on the first Sunday of the month and the deadline for submissions is the previous Tuesday.

This Newsletter is sent to all email addresses as provided for the Parish Roll. If you do not wish to receive this communication by email, please write to sjbanglican@gmail.com.