

Saint Mary's Newsletter: July

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday 5th:

10am Family Communion Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

Sunday 12th:

10am Family Communion service.

Refreshments - Valerie Crowther

Sunday 19th:

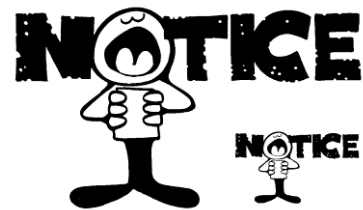
10am Praise Service

Refreshments - Rosalie Jennings

Sunday 26th:

10am Family Communion service.

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton



Patronal Festival Service: Sun 16th

August: We will be celebrating the Patron Saint of our church: Saint Mary

September 20th Care of Creation:

This year families can donate \$15-20 towards a native plant that will be purchased from a specialist Native Plant grower from Ngaruawahia. The donation box is on the Welcome table by the church entrance. The plants will be planted by parishioners on the day in the church gully.

No Children's Church/Junior Youth:

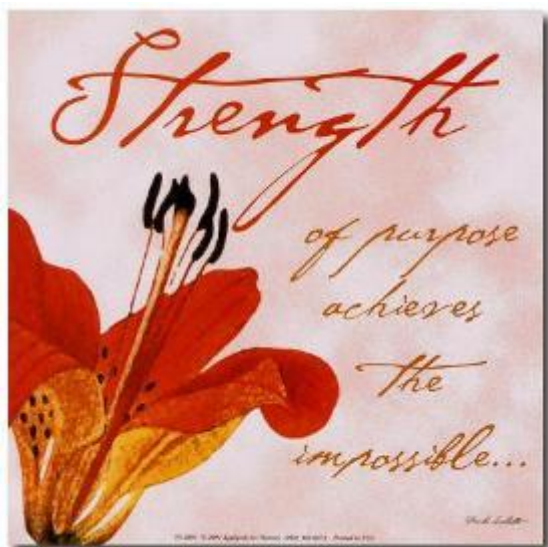
This month - 6th June and 13th July due to School Holidays. Activity packs are available during the service though - with a chocolate treat!

Youth Group (Year 9+): Combined churches youth Meet Fri 1st Jul 7pm at Oaks Church Gordonton.

Strength and Peace from the Lord

Psalm 29:11

"He will give his people strength. He will bless them with peace."



Defeated, tied-up, and blind, not a description we'd normally relate to strength. Yet, it is in this exact situation when Samson finally realized his true source of strength and managed to be used by God to set his people free.

Often times, when things seem to be going well, we tend to get complacent and rely on our own strength. However, this is not what God intended for us. He wants us to depend on Him and not ourselves, for it is through Him that we can achieve great things.

When God made man, He created us to need Him, and we have little strength apart from Him. Yet, when we recognize our weakness and humbly seek His face, our omnipotent God will then become our strength.

It is then that we no longer have to struggle for strength, for God now fights our battles on our behalf, and if God is for us, who can be against us?

Therefore, let us find the grace and strength to proclaim, "The Lord is the strength of our lives". God longs to show Himself strong on our behalf, and all we have to do is to entrust ourselves to Him and let Him strengthen us when we are feeble.

With that in mind, the verse above (Psalm 29:11) about strength reminds us of our true source of strength. Contemplate it, and let the strength of our omnipotent God flow through us. For truly, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Parish Bank Account:

02 0410 0103053 00 Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

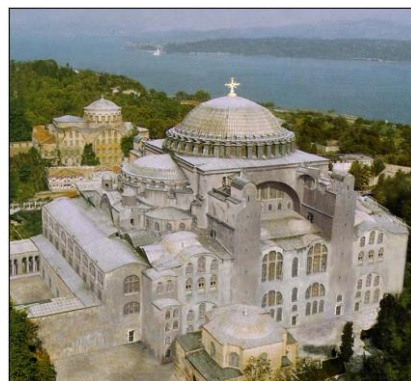
A Scripture for you:

Ephesians 3:14-19

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

This Month in Christian History:

6 July 1054: The Church suffers a permanent fracture when the Eastern patriarchates (Constantinople, Alexandria, Jerusalem, Antioch) break with the patriarchate of Rome, marking the beginning of the Great Schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.



The Eastern Orthodox Church of Constantinople
(before Turks turned it into a mosque ☹)