

Saint Mary's Newsletter: February

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th:

10am Candlemas family communion Service

Refreshments - Sally-Ann Riddell

Weds 10th:

7:30pm Ash Weds Service

Sunday 14th:

10am Praise Service
Children's Church and Junior Youth

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton

Sunday 21st:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Valerie Crowther

Sunday 28th:

10am Harvest Service & Family Communion

Refreshments - Trish Smithson



Don't forget St Mary's Gordonton is on Facebook: Lots of info, thoughts, & updates. Like it!

Ash Wednesday 10th Feb: 7:30pm. The service marks the beginning of Lent & involves the burning of last year's palm crosses on the altar, and marking of foreheads with ash as a sign of penitence.

Harvest Service: Sunday 28th A celebration of God's provision to us, and to use this as an opportunity to help those who are less fortunate so please bring along non perishable food that will be given to the Food Bank.

Volunteers: Please see the vicar if you can assist throughout the year with the Scripture readings or with the Chalice at Communion.

Children's Church/Junior Youth: This month -Children's church/Junior Youth is on 14th Feb and will be making Palm Crosses for next month's Palm Sunday service.

Youth Group (Year 9+): Combined churches youth Meet Fridays 7pm at Oaks Church Gordonton.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship



“Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?...

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

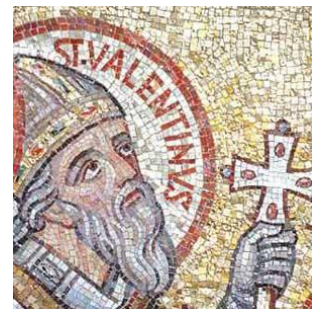
Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. Did you know that St Mary's has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese? Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

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This Month in Christian History:

February: Valentine was a priest during persecution by the Romans. At the time there was an edict forbidding marriage so to encourage more young men into the army. Valentine went against this by encouraging couples to marry in the Church. He was caught and then martyred 14 Feb 269.



Healing & Confession:

Should you require prayer for healing, please indicate to the vicar at the altar rail during Communion so anointing with oil can be given. The confidential act of Reconciliation/Confession (see page 750 of the Prayer Book) is also available on Friday's at the church 9am – 2pm

Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair raised \$5,000.00 which will go into the Building Fund towards a new church hall! An additional \$620.00 in donations was also received ☺