

Saint Mary's Newsletter: Sep 2016

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday 4th:

10am Family Communion with
Children's Church & Junior Youth

Refreshments - Adrienne Calderwood

Sunday 11th:

10am Family communion Service

Refreshments - Judy Cole

Sunday 18st:

10am Care of Creation Service -
bring gumboots, spade and raincoat.

Refreshments - Trish Smithson



Sunday 25th:

NO SERVICE THIS SUNDAY DUE TO SYNOD

Scripture for the month:



Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.



Parish Lunch 9 October: A Parish Lunch after the service. Held at The Laughing Peacock 1178 Orini Rd

Care of Creation Service: Sun 18th 10AM. Help transform a once wasteland of our church gully into a little forest. Bring a spade, gumboots and a raincoat. Native trees to plant are provided

Salt & Light Bible Study meets every second Sunday after the church service and morning tea. Bring along your "purple book". This month we meet 4th and 11th Sep.

Children's Church/Juniour Youth: This month -Children's church/Juniour Youth is on the 4th September

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

"What is repentance?"



Many understand the term repentance (from the Greek word *metanoia*) to mean "turning from sin." This is not the biblical definition of repentance. In the Bible, the word repent means "to change one's mind." The Bible also tells us that true repentance will result in a change of actions ([Luke 3:8-14](#); [Acts 3:19](#)). [Acts 26:20](#) declares, "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds." The full biblical definition of repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action.

What, then, is the connection between repentance and salvation? The Book of Acts seems to especially focus on repentance in regards to salvation ([Acts 2:38](#); [3:19](#); [11:18](#); [17:30](#); [20:21](#); [26:20](#)). To repent, in relation to salvation, is to change your mind in regard to Jesus Christ. In Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2), he concludes with a call for the people to repent ([Acts 2:38](#)). Repent from what? Peter is calling the people who rejected Jesus ([Acts 2:36](#)) to change their minds about Him, to recognize that He is indeed "Lord and Christ" ([Acts 2:36](#)). Peter is calling the people to change their minds from rejection of Christ as the Messiah to faith in Him as both Messiah and Saviour.

Repentance and faith can be understood as "two sides of the same coin." It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Saviour without first changing your mind about who He is and what He has done. Whether it is repentance from wilful rejection or repentance from ignorance or disinterest, it is a change of mind. Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.

It is crucially important that we understand repentance is not a work we do to earn salvation. No one can repent and come to God unless God pulls that person to Himself ([John 6:44](#)). [Acts 5:31](#) and [11:18](#) indicate that repentance is something God gives—it is only possible because of His grace. No one can repent unless God grants repentance. All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts. God's longsuffering leads us to repentance ([2 Peter 3:9](#)), as does His kindness ([Romans 2:4](#)).

While repentance is not a work that earns salvation, repentance unto salvation does result in works. It is impossible to truly and fully change your mind without that causing a change in action. In the Bible, repentance results in a change in behaviour. That is why John the Baptist called people to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" ([Matthew 3:8](#)). A person who has truly repented from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ will give evidence of a changed life ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Galatians 5:19-23](#); [James 2:14-26](#)). Repentance, properly defined, is necessary for salvation. Biblical repentance is changing your mind about Jesus Christ and turning to God in faith for salvation ([Acts 3:19](#)). Turning from sin is not the definition of repentance, but it is one of the results of genuine, faith-based repentance towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

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:

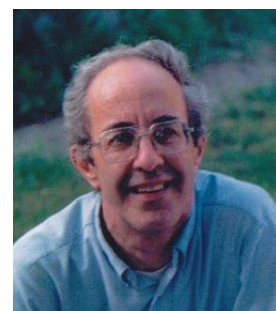
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CHEQUES TO ST MARY'S:

If you are writing a cheque out for the parish, please ensure it is made out to: "Gordonton Anglican Church"

This Month in Christian History:

3 Sep 1995: The Dutch born Catholic priest, mystic, and theologian Henri Nouwen confides in his journal: "*Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly...Prayer is the divine instrument of my wholeness, unity, and inner peace.*"



Confession/Reconciliation:

This confidential act (see page 750 of the NZ Prayer Book) is available at the church on Fridays 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Healing & Anointing:

For those who require prayer for healing, please see the vicar who will pray for you and anoint with oil