

Saint Mary's Newsletter: April

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR APRIL

Sunday 1st:

10am Easter Family communion Service.

Refreshments - Sally-Ann Riddell

Sunday 8th:

10am Family Communion.

Refreshments - Judy Cole

Sunday 15th:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Linda Davey

Sunday 22nd:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Kim Simpson

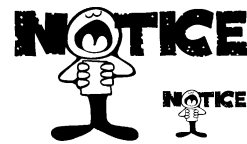
Wednesday 25th:

10am ANZAC Service at Gordonton Hall and Cenotaph - please bring a plate

Sunday 29th:

10am Fresh Expressions Service

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

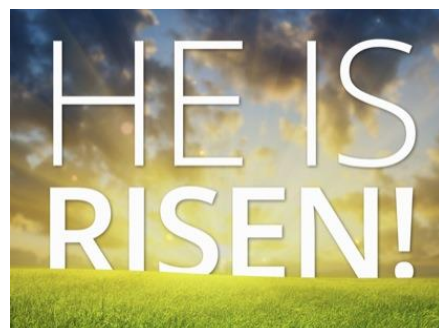


Children: Kids activity packs with puzzles and colouring in fun, and a chocolate treat is provided at the back of the church after Communion.

ANZAC Service: 10AM at Gordonton Hall 25 April Please bring a plate. We also require at least 4 volunteers to read out names from the roll of honour - please see the vicar

Salt & Light Bible Study - this month we meet @ St M's after church with our "Purple Books" on the 8th and 29th

Rototuna High Christian youth - are going on a Mission to Thailand. Please keep these youth in your prayers for safe and healthy travels. That the Holy Spirit will guide them and that God's majesty and power will be evident during this mission.



How will our resurrection body be different from our current body?

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul discusses the great differences between our earthly bodies and our resurrected bodies (see [1 Corinthians 15:35-54](#)). Contrasting our earthly bodies with the splendour of our heavenly (resurrected) bodies, Paul says, “The body that is sown is perishable, it is *raised imperishable*; it is sown in dishonour, it is *raised in glory*; it is sown in weakness, it is *raised in power*; it is sown a natural body, it is *raised a spiritual body*” (vv. 42-44, emphasis added). In short, our resurrected bodies are spiritual, imperishable, and raised in glory and power.

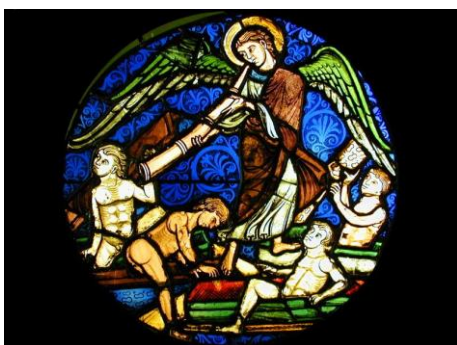
Through the first Adam, we received our natural bodies, perfectly suited to an earthly environment. However, they became perishable as a consequence of the Fall. Due to disobedience, mankind became mortal. Aging, deterioration, and eventual death now affect all of us. From dust we came, and to dust shall we return ([Genesis 3:19](#); [Ecclesiastes 3:20](#)). Our resurrection bodies, on the other hand, will be “raised imperishable.” They will never experience sickness, decay, deterioration, or death. And “when the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable... then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory’” ([1 Corinthians 15:54](#)).

As a result of the Fall, we are “sown in dishonour.” We were originally made perfect and in the image of God ([Genesis 1:27](#)), but sin has brought dishonour. Yet believers have the promise that our imperfect and dishonoured bodies will one day be raised in glory. Freed from the restrictions imposed by sin, our resurrected bodies will be honourable and perfectly suited for pleasing and praising our Creator throughout eternity.

Our current bodies are also characterized by weakness and debility. Our earthly “temples” are undeniably fragile and susceptible to the plethora of diseases that ravage mankind. We are also weakened by sin and temptation. One day, though, our bodies will be raised in power and glory, and we will no longer be subject to the flaws and fragility that pervade life today.

Last, the resurrected body will be a spiritual one. Our natural bodies are suited for living in this world, but this is the only realm in which we can live. “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God” ([1 Corinthians 15:50](#)). After the resurrection we will have a “spiritual body,” perfectly suited for living in heaven. This does not mean that we will be *only* spirits—spirits do not have bodies—but that our resurrected bodies will not need physical sustenance or depend on natural means of supporting life.

We get a glimpse of what our resurrection bodies will be like when we recall Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances. He still had visible wounds, and His disciples could physically touch Him, yet He was able to travel effortlessly and appear and disappear at will. He could go through walls and doors yet could also eat and drink and sit and talk. Scripture informs us that our “lowly bodies” will be just “like His glorious body” ([Philippians 3:21](#)). Indeed, the physical limitations imposed by sin that hinder our ability to fully serve Him on earth will be forever gone, freeing us to praise and serve and glorify Him for eternity



Psalm 22...Did you know....?

The sacrifice and resurrection of the Messiah are throughout the Old Testament. Psalm 22, written by King David a millennium before Christ, gives us the very perspective of the Lord hanging on the cross. It describes how the people mocked Christ (Psalm 22:7-8; Mat 27:41-43), how they cast lots to divide up his clothes (Psalm 22:18; Mat 27:35), how his bones were out of joint (Psalm 22:14), how the wicked had surrounded him and pierced his hands and feet (Psalm 22:16) – the scars of which Thomas later got to touch and feel (John 20:27). Psalm 22 ends by saying God’s righteousness would be declared to “a people that shall be born” (Psalm 22:31).



This Month in Christian History:

24 April 1576: Birth of Vincent de Paul, Catholic priest and philanthropist, who devoted himself to the poor and founded the Missionary Order of Lazarits (1625) and the Sisters of Charity (1632). Vincent helped ransom more than 1,000 Christian slaves held in Islamic Northern Africa. He was canonized as a saint in 1737 by Pope Clement XII.



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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