

Saint Mary's Newsletter: Sep 2020

Vicar: David Smithson 021 985530 Fridays

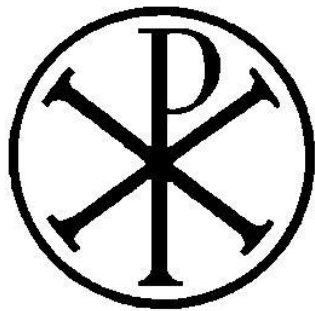
07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER



Sunday 6th:

10am *Holy Communion*

Readings: Trish Smithson

Intercessions: Trish Smithson

Refreshments: Trish Smithson

Sunday 13th:

10am *Holy Communion*

Readings:

Intercessions:

Refreshments:

Sunday 20th:

10am *Holy Communion*

Readings: Katy Cockerton

Intercessions: Katy Cockerton

Refreshments: Katy Cockerton

Sunday 27th:

10am *Holy Communion*.

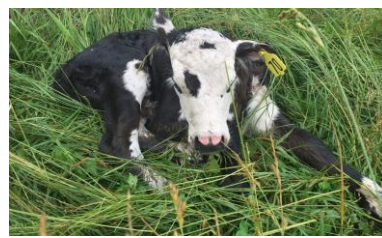
Readings: Majella Heaton

Intercessions: Majella Heaton

Refreshments: Majella Heaton



In July each year we welcome our new born calves. Thank you to everyone who support this fundraiser each year. It is greatly appreciated and a HUGE THANK YOU for that. Once again we are asking for your support in participating in this fundraiser by either donating a calf (if you are a farmer), or for the non farmers by donating \$250 which will cover the costs of purchasing a 4 day old bull calf and the rearing costs. (Calf/milk/grain/grazing) Or you can wait until the calves are sold and then donate the average cash price of what all the calves are sold for. It is an easy and low maintenance fundraiser that has the potential to raise \$500 per calf sold. The better the calf, the higher the price we get for it. You don't have to be a farmer to participate in this fundraiser. This year we have a huge number of friesian bull calves available for you to purchase from one of our farming parishioner families. The church will purchase some calves with the money you donate. These will be reared for us by the farmer until they are 100kg. When the calves are at least 100kg and weaned, they will be sold at the sales or sold privately in late October/early Nov. Our church relies on donations from those on the Parish roll and community so we can continue to be a sustainable and vibrant parish. We do not receive funds from any other sources except from fundraising events and cash donations pledged by our congregation through the weekly Sunday offertory collection and through internet banking donations pledged regularly by some families each month. If you would like to support this fundraiser please fill out the RETURN SLIP and email or hand it to Richard and Sally-Ann Riddell riddell@xtra.co.nz or ph 07 8243850 or 022107756



What does Scripture say about Abortion?

The Bible never specifically addresses the issue of abortion. However, there are numerous teachings in Scripture that make it abundantly clear what God's view of abortion is. Jeremiah 1:5 tells us that God knows us before He forms us in the womb. Psalm 139:13-16 speaks of God's active role in our creation and formation in the womb. Exodus 21:22-25 prescribes the same penalty—death—for someone who causes the death of a baby in the womb as for someone who commits murder. This clearly indicates that God considers a baby in the womb to be just as much of a human being as a full-grown adult. For the Christian, abortion is not a matter of a woman's right to choose. It is a matter of the life or death of a human being made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6).

What does the Bible say about abortion? Simply put, abortion is murder. It is the killing of a human being who is created in the image of God.

The first argument that always arises against the Christian stance on abortion is "What about cases of rape and/or incest?" As horrible as it would be to become pregnant as a result of rape and/or incest, is the murder of a baby the answer? Two wrongs do not make a right. The child who is a result of rape/incest could be given in adoption to a loving family unable to have children on their own. Again, the baby is completely innocent and should not be punished for the evil acts of its father.

The second argument that usually arises against the Christian stance on abortion is "What about when the life of the mother is at risk?" Honestly, this is the most difficult question to answer on the issue of abortion. First, let's remember that this situation is the reason behind less than one-tenth of one percent of the abortions done in the world today. Second, let's remember that God is a God of miracles. He can preserve the life of a mother and her child despite all the medical odds being against it. Third, even in the one-tenth of one-percent of abortions that are done to save the life of the mother, in the vast majority of these cases, an early induced delivery of the baby or a C-section is what is necessary, not an abortion. This early inducement may result in the death of the baby, but it is extremely rare that a baby must be actively aborted in order to save the life of the mother. Some doctors say that abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of the mother. Ultimately, though, if the life of the mother is genuinely at risk, a decision like this can only be decided between a woman, her doctor, oftentimes the father of the child, and God. Any woman facing this extremely difficult situation should pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) as to what He would have her do.

Over 98 percent of the abortions performed today involve women who simply do not want to have the baby. Less than two percent of abortions are for the reasons of rape, incest, or the mother's life is at risk. Even in these more difficult two percent of instances, abortion should never be the first option. The life of a human being in the womb is worth every effort to allow the child to be born.

For those who have had an abortion, remember that the sin of abortion is no less forgivable than any other sin. Through faith in Christ, all sins can be forgiven (John 3:16; Romans 8:1; Colossians 1:14). A woman who has had an abortion, a man who has encouraged an abortion—or even a doctor who has performed one—can all be forgiven by faith in Jesus Christ.



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:

Sept 21, 1452: Birth of the Italian Dominican firebrand preacher and reformer Girolamo Savonarola. Preaching against licentiousness of the ruling class and the worldliness of the clergy, Savonarola led in the reformation of Florence. He was later excommunicated, arrested, condemned, and executed for his verbal attacks on Pope Alexander VI.



Seismic Strengthening Fund:

If you are wanting to donate to our Seismic Strengthening Fund to strengthen our beautiful little church, the Parish Bank Account is:

02 0410 0103053 00

Please mark your donation with the reference as "Seismic Strengthening"

