

Saint Mary's Newsletter: May

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 0221077562

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 02170271



SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 7th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: M Holdsworth

Readings/prayers: M Holdsworth

Sunday 14th:

10am Holy Communion Service, & Rich + Fee Fraser visit

Refreshments: The Clark's

Readings/prayers: The Clark's

Sunday 21st:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: T Smithson

Readings/prayers: T Smithson

Sunday 28th:

10am Pentecost Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: M Heaton

Readings/prayers: M Heaton



King's Birthday Weekend Sun 5th June: No service

Fraser's visit: Our "adopted Mission Family" the Fraser's from the UK will be in NZ from the 8th May to the 1st June, staying in Gordonton

Vicar's phone number: Please note that the vicar has gone back to using 027 4213200

THOMAS TALLIS



Thomas Tallis was born in the early part of the 16th C. Tallis served at court as a composer and performer for Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I. He was first designated as an organist at the chapel after 1570, although he would have been employed as an organist throughout his career.

He avoided the religious controversies that raged around him throughout his service to successive monarchs, though he remained, in the words of the historian Peter Ackroyd, an "unreformed Roman Catholic". Tallis was capable of switching the style of his compositions to suit each monarch's different demands. He stood out among other important composers of the time, including Christopher Tye and Robert White.

"CONTENTMENT"

One dictionary defines *contentment* as "the state of being mentally or emotionally satisfied with things as they are." Today it is rare that we find anyone who is truly content with his or her condition in life. The Bible has a great deal to say about contentment—being satisfied with what we have, who we are, and where we're going. Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" (Matthew 6:25).

In essence, Jesus is telling us to be content with what we have. Moreover, He has given us a direct command not to worry about the things of this world. Then He adds, "For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:32–33). From Jesus' words, we can deduce that lack of contentment is sin and it puts us in the same category as those who do not know God.

The apostle Paul was a man who suffered and went without the comforts of life more than most people could ever imagine (2 Corinthians 11:23–28). Yet he knew the secret of contentment: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12–13). The writer to the Hebrews adds, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5–6).

Yet people continue to seek after more of the things of this world, never contented with their lot in life. The bumper sticker that reads "He with the most toys wins!" epitomizes the world's cravings for more and more. Solomon, the wisest and richest man who ever lived, said, "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

"Be content with such things as you have" means that believers should put their trust and confidence in God, knowing that He is the Giver of all good things (James 1:17) and that He uses even the hard times to show that our faith is genuine, "being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world" (1 Peter 1:7, NLT). We know assuredly that God will cause all things to work together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

To worry means we do not trust God. The key to overcoming our discontentment and lack of faith is to find out who God really is and how He has been faithful to supply the needs of His people in the past. Such study will grow one's confidence and trust for the future. The apostle Peter said it succinctly: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6–7).



This Month in Christian History:

6th May 735: Death of Anglo-Saxon theologian the Venerable Bede. Bede was a monk at a monastery in Jarrow, Northumberland. He was known as "the father of English history". Bede was the first English scholar, and he invented the BC/AD dating system and his writing *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (731) was crucial to England's conversion to Christianity.



Parish Giving

Please consider raising your amount of parish giving if you are able to, even if it is an extra \$5 extra p/w - it all makes a difference! If you are not already doing so, please also consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. 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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