

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: October

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

**Lay Minister:** Charles Clark 021 02691764

**Peoples Warden:** Sally-Ann Riddell 022 107562

**Vicars Warden:** John Heaton 021 702871



## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>:

10am Pet Blessing Service

**Morning Tea:** Trish

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Trish

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Morning Tea:** @ Hukanui Golf Club

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Melanie

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Morning Tea:** Majella

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Majella

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>:

**NO SERVICE** – LABOUR WEEKEND



**Golf Tournament Fundraising:** Hukanui Golf Club, Sun 13 Sept. People needed at the club straight after the church service to help prepare lunches etc for the tournament. See Sally-Ann or Richard for more details



**Hamper Raffle items:** Decadent items required for golf tournament hamper: wine, chocolate, chutney, crackers etc . Please bring to the church on Sunday's prior to the Tournament

**Pet Blessing Service** In honour of St Francis (whose day is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct) we are having our Annual Pet Blessing Service Sun 6<sup>th</sup>Oct. Bring along your cat, or dog or any kind of pet 😊

## The Fear of God



For the unbeliever, the fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God (Luke 12:5; Hebrews 10:31). For the believer, the fear of God is something much different. The believer's fear is reverence of God. Hebrews 12:28-29 is a good description of this: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'" This reverence and awe are exactly what the fear of God means for Christians. This is the motivating factor for us to surrender to the Creator of the Universe.

Proverbs 1:7 declares, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." Until we understand who God is and develop a reverential fear of Him, we cannot have true wisdom. True wisdom comes only from understanding who God is and that He is holy, just, and righteous. Deuteronomy 10:12, 20-21 records, "And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes." The fear of God is the basis for our walking in His ways, serving Him, and, yes, loving Him.

Some redefine the fear of God for believers to "respecting" Him. While respect is definitely included in the concept of fearing God, there is more to it than that. A biblical fear of God, for the believer, includes understanding how much God hates sin and fearing His judgment on sin—even in the life of a believer. Hebrews 12:5-11 describes God's discipline of the believer. While it is done in love (Hebrews 12:6), it is still a fearful thing. When we were children, our fear of discipline from our parents no doubt prevented some evil actions on our part. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should fear His discipline, and therefore seek to live our lives in a way that pleases Him.

Believers are not to be scared of God. We have no reason to be scared of Him. We have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Fearing God means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live. The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshiping Him in awe.

## Rev Brett Murphy

Brett is an Australian cleric living and working in the UK with his family. Brett is outspoken on matters of Orthodoxy, and speaks out against wokeness in the Church. Such speech has resulted in him being unfairly dismissed by the Free Church of England and kicked out of his parish and vicarage with his wife and children. Please pray for Brett and his family



## Did you know?

The first Nativity Scene was made by St Francis of Assisi, and it consisted of live animals

