

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: May

**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 MAY

### Sunday 3<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Helen

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Helen

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Sally-Ann

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Sally-Ann

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Karen

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Karen

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>:

10am Pentecost Holy Communion service

**Refreshments:** Kay

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Kay

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>:

10am Mission Sunday Holy Communion Service

**Readings:** Charles

**Intercessions:** Helen

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT EAST WEST COLLEGE

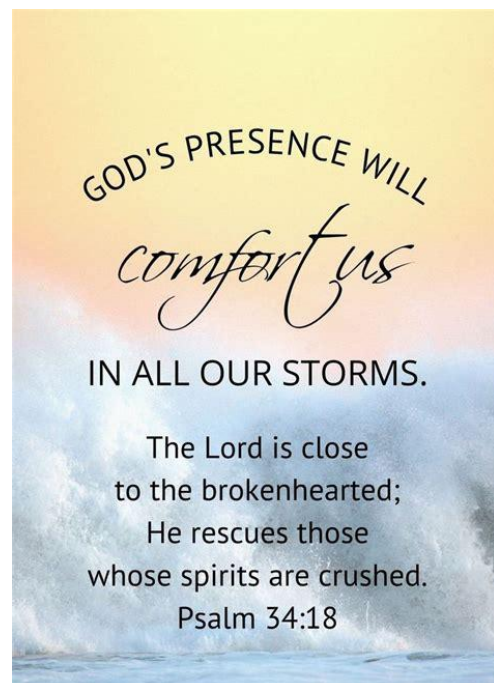


**Bishop's Visit:** Sunday 7 June

## Parish Giving

With the rising cost of living, insurance etc, please consider increasing your giving to the parish – even if it is an extra \$5 p/w, it will all make the difference. 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:

**02 0410 0103053 00**



## Arrogance

The words *arrogance*, *arrogant*, *proud*, and *haughty* are mentioned over 200 times in the NIV Bible. And in practically every occurrence, it is a behaviour or attitude detested by God. The Bible tells us those who are arrogant and have a haughty heart are an abomination to Him:

“Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 16:5). Of the seven things the Bible tells us that God hates, “haughty eyes” [“a proud look,” NKJV] is the first one listed (Proverbs 6:16-19). Jesus Himself said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him,” and then goes on to list the thirteen characteristics of those who are outside of God’s favour, with arrogance being considered alongside sexual immorality and murder (Mark 7:20-23).

There are two Greek forms of the word arrogance used in the New Testament, essentially meaning the same. *Huperogkos* means “swelling” or “extravagant” as used in “arrogant words” (2 Peter 2:18; Jude 1:16). The other is *phusiosis*, meaning a “puffing up of the soul” or “loftiness, pride” (2 Corinthians 12:20). It is incumbent upon believers to recognize that being arrogant or having a pompous attitude is antithetical to godliness (2 Peter 1:5-7). Arrogance is nothing more than an overt display of one’s sense of self-importance (2 Timothy 3:2). It is akin to that “it’s all about me” mindset that says, “The world revolves around me” (Proverbs 21:24).

Instead of arrogance, the Bible teaches us the opposite. In writing to the church in Corinth, Paul describes the love. Of the many facets of God’s love, arrogance is the reverse: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant” (1 Corinthians 13:4; cf. Romans 12:3). Being boastful and having that “I’m better than you” attitude reeks of intimidation and destroys our relationships with others. However, Jesus taught us to put others before self: “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:43-45). The apostle Paul echoed these same sentiments in his letter to the church in Philippi: “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3). This is a vast contrast from the “dog-eat-dog,” competitive nature of our world today. The Christian’s behaviour towards others should imitate that of Christ who taught us to wash one another’s feet (John 13:14). Where the world pushes us to strive to reach the top and says that “he who has the most toys wins,” Jesus commands us to be different: “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11; cf. James 4:6).

Regarding our attitudes towards God and our fellow-man, God gives us two promises. First, that the arrogant will be punished (Proverbs 16:5; Isaiah 13:11), and, second, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). For, in truth, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5; cf. Proverbs 3:34).



## This Month in Christian History:

**10<sup>th</sup> May 1886:** The great Theologian Karl Barth is born. Once when asked to summarize the essence of his theology, Barth simply said “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!”



**20<sup>th</sup> May 325:** 300 bishops met in what is now Ankara, Turkey, for the Council of Nicaea. From this the Nicene Creed was formulated.



## What is a Theophany/Christophany?

Some Bible commentators believe that whenever someone received a visit from “the angel of the Lord,” this was in fact the pre-incarnate Christ. These appearances can be seen in Genesis 16:7-14; Genesis 22:11-18; Judges 5:23; 2 Kings 19:35; and other passages. Other commentators believe these were in fact angelophanies, or appearances of angels. While there are no indisputable Christophanies in the Old Testament, every theophany wherein God takes on human form foreshadows the incarnation, where God took the form of a man to live among us as Emmanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).