



# MARKINGS

## St Mark's Anglican Parish Te Aroha

**Archdeacon:** Ven Val Riches

**Priest-in-Charge:** Rev. Geoff Lamason 0220807297

**Permission to Officiate:** Rev. Joan Power 8847058

**Permission to Officiate:** Rev. Ian Harrop 8849292

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*Knowing † Sharing Christ's Aroha*

**28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**  
**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THEME:** The New Covenant

**SENTENCE:** In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

*1 John 4:10-11.*

**COLLECT:**

**Christ of the new covenant,  
give us the happiness to share,  
with full measure, pressed down,  
shaken together and running over,  
all that you give us.**

**Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

**READINGS:**

**Acts 8:26-40.** Persecution of the early church broke out in Jerusalem, and many Christians were scattered. The church also began to admit non-Jews to its fellowship, and this included an Ethiopian

**1 John 4:7-21.** The first letter of John is more a treatise or a sermon from a leader of the Johannine church at the end of the first century AD. The author stresses that our Christian love stems from God's love for us.

**Psalms 22:25-31.** Future generations shall be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance.

**John 15:1-8.** As part of the long address to the disciples at the Last Supper in John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the intimate relationship that exists between himself and his followers; as close as branches to the vine.

*Next week's readings:*

*Acts 10:44-48. Psalm 98. 1 John 5:1-6. John 15:9-17.*

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<b>APR</b>	<b>COMMEMORATIONS</b>	<b>EVENTS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Sun 28</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion Rev. Geoff Lamason
<b>Mon 29</b>	Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380	
<b>Tue 30</b>	George, Martyr, Patron Saint of England, c.304	
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>Wed 1</b>	St Philip & St James, Apostles	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Thu 2</b>	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373	
<b>Fri 3</b>		
<b>Sat 4</b>		
<b>Sun 5</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion Rev. Geoff Lamason.

**We pray for** Soren, Shirley, Doreen, Cilla, Jemima, Jenny, Elaine, Gloria & Brian, Beverley, Tom & Corolyn, Jann and her family, Chrissy, Rori.

*If you wish to add a name to the prayer list for the next 4 weeks, please contact Geoff (022 080 7297,) or Pat (8849182)*

**IN THE MISSION FIELD we pray for** Partners in Africa.

**IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND we pray for**

- **The Province:** Te Pihopatanga O Aotearoa: Archdeacons of Te Taihauauru, Tamaki Makaurau, Waiariki, Waiwhakāri, Pastorates of Hamilton, Hauraki, Rohe Potae, Tamaki, Taranaki, Waikato, Waitomo.
- **Our Diocese:** Waikato Hospital Chaplain, Springhill Prison Chaplain
- **Community:** The Maori King and family.
- **Our Parish:** Gardeners and Lawn mowers, Restoration Team.



**ST MARK'S MATTERS;**

*Prayer and the oil of anointing are always available after services – just ask the priest or members of the healing team.*



† **VISITING:** If you know that a parishioner is unwell, please contact Geoff 022 080 7297, or Joan 884 7058.

**WHAT'S ON IN MAY**

- Fri 10** 1.30pm Craft Group
- Thu 16** 1.30pm Fellowship
- Mon 20** 1.30pm Vestry
- Fri 24** 1.30pm Craft Group

## **FROM VESTRY:**

- Thank you to all who attended the AGM last week. We are pleased to welcome John Baillie to our team, and thank Elaine Bootten and Brian Swney for their many years of service.
- The March Minutes are on the noticeboard.
- There is a notebook in the Kitchen, by the First Aid Kit, to register all accidents and incidents that happen here. There is also a notebook to record items from the First Aid Kit that need replacing. Please note down anything you use, so it can be replaced.
- Elaine Bootten is still collecting and sorting stamps for Missions. Stamps with a money value on them are all acceptable, Kiwi stamps have no value at all. Thank you to all who continue to supply stamps.

### **ANNIVERSARY**

Trish & Lloyd Townsend tomorrow  
63 years

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Betty Fleming on May 2

**RAGS.** Thank you to all who cut up rags on Friday – a good afternoon's work.

## **FROM THE RESTORATION TEAM:**

The St Mark Restoration Group have planted two "Loving Memory" rose bushes either side of the Peace Memorial stone. They don't look much at the moment but once they bloom they will be very impressive

## **A PRAYER FOR THE RESTORATION TEAM.**

God of compassion and grace;  
grant wisdom, insight, and creativity to the team as they work to raise funding for the restoration of St Mark's Church, Te Aroha. May they be encouraged by our and the wider community's support and co-operation, be it through word or action, so that together St Mark's becomes a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who live in our district. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



## **A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Compassionate and gracious God we ask for your intervention, through men, women, and organisations of authority, to restore peace in nations engaged in armed conflict throughout each continent of our world. Protect and sustain all who are bringing medical aid, food, shelter, and comfort to the innocent victims of such conflict. This we ask in the name of Jesus, The Prince of Peace. Amen.

## **THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS.**

In this passage, Jesus stresses the need for his hearers (the branches,) to dwell deeply in him (the vine.) This is in order that they may be fruitful. But an additional condition is that fruitful branches must be open to being pruned by the vine-grower (God the Father) to enable yet more fruit. There is a wonderful picture here of God continually tending, shaping and re-shaping us over time, in order that our lives bear as much fruit as possible. This is God's work, not ours, but we must stay 'rooted and grafted' into Jesus the vine.

### **Psalm 22:25-31.**

25 I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfil my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

**26 The poor will eat and be satisfied.**

**All who seek the Lord will praise him.**

**Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.**

27 The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.

All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

**28 For royal power belongs to the Lord.**

**He rules all the nations.**

29 Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who are mortal,  
all whose lives will end as dust.

**30 Our children will also serve him.**

**Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.**

31 His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Thought for the week:*