

**Lenten/Good Friday Appeal:** This year's appeal will be in support of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Please collect an envelope from either St Anne's Church or St Mark's Church. Envelopes can be put in the collection plate on Sunday mornings.

**Mission Committee Lenten Meal, Prayer and Film evening:** 5.30pm, Sunday 21 March, at St Mark's Church Lounge. This will focus on issues concerning food. Please bring a simple dish of food to share if possible made from local and fairly traded ingredients or food from your garden. Please read the posters at both churches for more details. Inquiries to Mary Hamilton 337 0833.

**Jumble Sale:** Saturday, 20th March beginning at 8.30am. Donations of items to sell will be gratefully received. Could we please have some kind volunteers to help. Betty Phillips-Kane ph 332 2661 and Jean Bakkenes ph 942 7913.

**Palm Crosses:** Help is needed to make palm crosses, everyone is welcome (the more the merrier and quicker!). No experience is needed as tuition will be given. 10.00am at St Mark's Church Lounge, on Saturday, 27th March. We also need soft flax to make the crosses. Please contact Barbara Tonkin (981 1612) if you need flax picked up.

**Watch of the Night:** Please sign up for an hour at a time to suit from 9.00pm Maundy Thursday, 1st April until 8.00am on Good Friday, 2nd April. Please put your name on the roster in the foyer at both St Mark's Church and St Anne's Church. Barbara Tonkin, phone 981 1612.

**Holy Week and Easter Services:** If you would like to be on the roster for the services during Holy Week and Easter please sign the sheet in the foyers at both St Anne's and St Mark's. Thank you - Barbara Tonkin.

**Wednesday Evening Lent Study Group:** This group meets on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm in St Mark's Church Lounge. The group is discussing the book 'Our Sound is Our Wound' by Lucy Winkett. Each meeting concludes with Night Prayer. Books can be obtained from the Parish Office - cost \$26. Inquiries: Megan Harvey or Lawrence Kimberley.

**Confirmation:** Are you interested in being confirmed or in renewing your baptismal vows and would like to find out what is involved? We are about to get a confirmation group underway. Please talk to the Vicar, Lawrence Kimberley, or Deacon Assistant, Megan Harvey, if you are interested. Candidates will be confirmed by Bishop Victoria Matthews on 22 August.

**The Faith Journey Study Group** meets at 9.30am on Mondays at 142 Fisher Avenue. For details about the group please phone Sarah Rea phone 942 2557. New people are very welcome.

**UFO Craft Group:** you are invited to bring all your unfinished objects to a Thursday afternoon group from 1.00pm to 3.00pm at St Mark's. If you have been thinking of coming along, come and enjoy the coffee and conversation. Contact Elizabeth Kimberley on 981 7384.

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK: Vestry meeting:** 7.30pm on Tues., 16th March, at St Anne's

**The Thursday House Group meets** at 7.30pm on Thursday, 18th March at Neil and Jean Shewan's home, 11 Enticott Place.

**St Mark's AAW meeting:** 2.00pm on Thursday, 18th March at St Mark's Church Lounge. Please bring a photograph that you would like to talk about. Glennys Ward ph. 337 9099

**COMING UP:**

- |               |                                                                                                                            |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mar 20</b> | <b>Jumble Sale (inquiries to Betty Phillips-Kane)</b>                                                                      |
| <b>Mar 21</b> | <b>Mission Committee Lent seminar (in the evening)</b>                                                                     |
| <b>Mar 28</b> | <b>Palm Sunday</b>                                                                                                         |
| <b>Apr 1</b>  | <b>Maundy Thursday:</b><br>7.30pm Eucharist of the Lord's Supper and watch of the night (St Mark's)                        |
| <b>Apr 2</b>  | <b>Good Friday:</b> 10.00am Children's Service at St Mark's Church<br>12:00noon Liturgy of the Passion at St Anne's Church |
| <b>Apr 3</b>  | <b>Holy Saturday:</b> 9.00pm The Great Vigil of Easter at St Mark's Church                                                 |



**St Mark's Church  
Opawa**

**St Anne's Church  
St Martins**



**4th Sunday in Lent  
14th March 2010**

**8:00am St Mark's - Eucharist pg 404**  
**9.30am St Anne's - Eucharist pg 404**  
**10.00am St Mark's - Eucharist pg 404**

**READINGS:** Joshua 5: 9 - 12, 2 Corinthians 5: 16 - 21, Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11b - 32  
**HYMNS:** **Processional:** Word of God in human Language (green book 208)  
**Penitential:** E te Ariki kia aroha mai  
**Psalms:** The goodness of the Lord (sheet)  
**Gradual:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ  
**Offertory:** Lord of creation, to you be all praise! (green book 110)  
**Communion:** Come, come to the banquet (sheet)  
**Recessional:** Love divine, all loves excelling (green book 113)

**Presider:** I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu. **Amine.**  
*(In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit).*

**Presider:** Grace and peace to you from God  
**People:** **God fill you with truth and joy.**

**Collect:** God of compassion, you await the sinner's return and spread a feast to welcome the home the lost. Save us from the temptations that lead us away from you, and draw us back by the constancy of your love, that we may take our place in your household and gladly share our inheritance with others. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God forever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Opawa — St Martin's Staff Team**

<b>Vicar:</b>	The Ven. Lawrence Kimberley	981 7384
	e-mail:	lak@clear.net.nz
<b>Deacon Assistant:</b>	The Rev'd Megan Harvey	337 0237
<b>Hon. Priest Assistants:</b>		
	The Rev'd Peter Axcell	332 7195
	The Rev'd Canon Jill Pask	384 5453
	The Rev'd Rob Thomson	327 6017
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Weekdays: 9.30am - 12.00noon	980 9983
	e-mail:	stmarks.opawa@paradise.net.nz
<b>Wardens:</b>	Neil Shewan	337 1642
	Peter Greenwood	377 0852
<b>Webpage:</b>	<b>www.opawastmartins.com</b>	

## For your reflection...

Dear friends,

Forgiveness is at the same time one of the consoling aspects of the gospel while at the same time one of the gospel's biggest challenges. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive others."

Today the gospel reading is the famous parable of the prodigal Son. This is an unfortunate name for this parable, because the main character in the parable is the Father and the theme is the Father's forgiveness. The younger son hurts the Father deeply by asking for his inheritance in advance, and then spending it unwisely. The radical part of the story is that the Father, in spite of being poorly treated by his son, waits every day for the son to return, and then welcomes him home with open arms. The story is a demonstration of God's forgiving love, culminating in the Messianic banquet of the kingdom.

The fact that God is forgiveness is sometimes difficult to believe. Jesus reveals God as infinite, compassionate, generous, faithful love. Yet many of us struggle to receive that love and forgiveness. Instead it seems to be human nature to believe that we are not good enough for God and so we dismiss our created worth. But this only hurts God more, that we see ourselves as unworthy of God in such a way that we

refuse his love. God's love is graciously given whether or not we deserve it. All we have to do is receive it with gratitude.

Having received God's love and grace, the gospel challenges us to forgive as we are forgiven. We might recall the parable in Matthew's gospel about the debtor whose debts were forgiven but who then expected strict payment from the servant who owed him. This highlights another aspect of human behaviour. We want justice when it comes to our neighbour, but mercy when it comes to God. God wants us to forgive and love each other just as God forgives and loves us.

What does forgiveness look like? It does not mean liking someone, or agreeing with them, or setting ourselves up for repeated hurt, or cutting myself off from a person. Forgiveness means remaining open to reconciliation, healing, and a relationship, whatever form that might take. Sometimes it means being able to forgive myself, or my parents, or a group of people. We must always be ready to forgive, to let go of the offence as God does, rather than storing them up. Forgiveness requires hearts of flesh rather than hearts of stone. This is what God is like, and he calls us to be the same.

*Lawrence Kimberley*

## Please pray for ....

**Our families, especially those we do not see very often and those who are alone.**

**Those we know who are sick:** Jenny Harrison, Jane Chapman, Beverley, Dulcie Snow, Samuel Struthers, Brydie Lauder, Audrey Allen, Tony Muir, Ruby Austin, and Malcolm Harris.

**Those preparing for baptism:** Jessica Wadell

**In Long Term Care:** Paul McClintock, Doris Collie, Jean Gadd, Doris Beaumont, Edyth Coursey, Jean Rickerby, Edna Tucker, Nancy O'Malley, Connie Chaplin, Molly Porteous, Pat Ludemann, Norm Wright, Wayne Miller, Nancy Royfee Margaret and Ralph Hindmarsh, Gabriele Thompson.

**Those who have died:** Rod Wilson



## What's happening this week within the Parish:

Mon	15	9.30am	Faith Journey Study Group
Tues	16	9.30am	mainly music
		10.30am	mainly music
		7.30pm	Vestry Meeting at St Anne's
Wed	17	9.00am	Little Annie's Play Group
		10.00am	Eucharist at St Mark's
		7.30pm	Lenten Study Group at St Mark's
Thurs	18	9:00am	St Mark's School Service.
		1.00pm	UFO Craft Group
		1.30pm	Elms Court Rest Home Communion
		2.00pm	St Mark's AAW
		7.30pm	Thursday House Group
Fri	19	11.00am	Chatswood Rest Home Communion
		6.00pm	SMY
Sat	20	8.30am	Jumble Sale
		6:00pm	SMYLE
Sun	21	<b>5th Sunday in Lent</b>	
		<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Eucharist in St Mark's Church</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Eucharist at St Anne's Church</b>
		<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Eucharist in St Mark's Church</b>

## Scripture Readings for next Sunday, 21st March, 5th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 126, Isaiah 43: 16 - 21, Philippians 3: 4b - 14, John 12: 1 - 8