



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 7 September 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy
some time with us.

Today's theme: "The Passover"

Focus Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

Other Readings: Psalm 149

Instructions for celebrating the first Passover.

The most extensive discussion of the Passover in the Bible comes in Chapters 12 and 13 of the book of Exodus. Observance takes place within the context of the family. A pre-selected lamb is slaughtered at twilight on the fourteenth day of Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew calendar (March/April). Its blood is placed on the frame of the door and serves to protect the Israelite families from the divine plague that will kill the firstborn. The lamb is roasted and then shared by the family in a meal which includes unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

We should remember the context of this gruesome slaughter. The Egyptians had done exactly the same to the sons of the Israelites. Also, God said he would punish the gods of Egypt (v.12). Pharaoh believed himself to be a god; the Lord showed him what a real God can do.



Exodus 12:1-14 The Passover

1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, **2** "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. **3** Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. **4** If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. **5** The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. **6** Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. **7** Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. **8** That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. **9** Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. **10** Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. **11** This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. **12** "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. **13** The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. **14** "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 14 September

Theme: Christian Living

Focus Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31

Other Readings: Romans 14:1-12

Prayer points: Please pray for: Ron Ashton with his cancer diagnosis, those with winter illnesses, Shelia Simmons for back pain. The kindergarten has a number of children going off to school so they need prayers for their role to increase again. Also both the Little Cubz Kindy and Home based care have had their ERO review this week so please pray for a positive outcome.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

NOTICE OF AGM: The AGM will be held on Sunday 14 September 2014 immediately after the Sunday service.

ALPHA: Please pray for those attending and the leaders.

The Office :- Jeannine will be away on leave from Thursday 4 September Until Tuesday 16 September. If you are able to help out with keeping the kitchen clean and emptying the dishwasher or answering the phone please call in.

Meet the Candidates:- 730pm Monday 8 September St Marks Catholic Church, 334 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga. A Public meeting with Candidates/Parties standing in the Pakuranga Electorate.

A letter from the Archbishops of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa with regards to the general election is on the column in the foyer. If you would like the email link to this please email the office office@stjohnsbb.org.nz and I can forward it on to you.

Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (7th September) John Cowan's guest will be TV & radio personality, Jesse Mulligan

Inspirational/Anglican TV "Once again Media Prayer Day was a great success. This week a recap on the importance of praying for people working in the media. This week on **www.inspirationaltv.net**: praying for people in the media, Media Prayer Day and Matthew 18:15-20 when someone sins. All the best for a great week."

Hymn Festival on **Saturday 13th September** at St Columba at Botany, 480 Ti Rakau Drive, Botany. 730pm Cost \$20 adult or \$10 youth, door sales only. The church's magnificent Rodgers Infinity Organ and grand piano will be used to accompany the hymns. Past events under the name of "Soul Music" demonstrated the power of massed singing while individual & group items added to the spirit of praise & adoration. Reflective numbers performed by the quartet ANIMA VOCE and individual singers will add to your overall uplifting experience.

The City of Auckland Singers will be performing at **St Andrew's Centre**, 85 Queen St, **Waiuku** on **Sunday 14th September** at 2pm. Entry is \$5 which includes afternoon tea.

Safe and Sound –a local Community Constable, who will bring their knowledge and expertise, to provide information and answer your questions to help you keep safe in your home and community. It will be held on Thursday 11th September, from 10am – 12 noon at East City Wesleyan Church, 219 Burswood Drive, Botany. Morning tea is included. No entry charge, but donations towards costs always gratefully received. For further information and to book, (essential for catering purposes), please ring the Age Concern office on **09 279 4331 Ext 800** or register by email to sandya@accm.org.nz.

"Navigating the Health System" continues this month with **Where from Here, Part 1**, on Tuesday September 16th, downstairs in the Café at Howick Presbyterian Church, 11 Vincent St, Howick from 10am – 12.30pm. Our guest speakers from **Senior Line and Nationwide Health & Disability Advocacy Service** and will do a short presentation on their services, (including Health Passports) with plenty of time for questions and answers. Morning tea included. No cost but donations always welcome. (Coming up in October is the Independent Living Service.) Bookings essential – to secure your place, ring the Age Concern office on 2794331 ext 800 or email sandya@accm.org.nz