

Gracious God, you call us your own and love us beyond measure; in the rising of your Son we are made a resurrection people, free us from the old ways, make us faithful disciples, so that we can share with others what you have freely given to us, Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



## The Anglican Parish of Saint Mark, Remuera

### A Community of Faith for 173 years

2 May 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Choral Eucharist

#### THIS SUNDAY

**Breakfast between Services in the Parish Lounge (8.45am-9.15am)**

**Prayer for Healing after both Services in the Kinder Chapel**

#### THIS WEEK

Monday	3 May	9.30am Baby Sensory & <b>Mainly Music</b> ; 4pm Ak Girls Choir
Tuesday	4 May	9.30am Communicare; 7pm Alpine Sports Club
Wednesday	5 May	10.00am <b>Holy Communion (BCP 1928)</b> , Kinder Chapel <i>Followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre.</i> 10am Ina Yoon - Harpist (lessons in Music Room)
Thursday	6 May	9am NZ Opera (rehearsal); 5.30pm Girl Guides
Friday	7 May	9am NZ Opera (rehearsal) 5.30pm Remuera Jr Chess Club
Saturday	8 May	9am NZ Opera (rehearsal),
<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>	9 May	8.00 am Said Eucharist 9.30 am Choral Eucharist - <b>Sunday School returns</b>

#### FOR THE DIARY

#### Donations towards Organ Console Refurbishment

We are approaching two-thirds of the target we need to have a new organ console installed in the church. This is really a terrific result for a campaign that has been underway less two months.

If you would like to contribute to this legacy project, please see Sylvia Rosevear or contact Diana in the office.

The account to deposit your gift into is **03 0104 0109908 02**. Please use **'donation'** for the reference and **'organ'** as the particulars. Also, if you are not on our Parish Roll, please email Diana in the Parish Office ([office@stmarks.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarks.org.nz)) with your contact details so we can properly thank you and send you a tax-receipt.



#### Parish Directory

Parish Office	Monday to Friday 9.00am until 3.00pm	09 520 2258
Vicar	The Reverend Dr Tony Surman	021 074 1138
Lay Minister	Trevor Brooker	021 614 227
People's Warden	Christine Koefoed	021 682 331
Vicar's Warden	Peter Allen	021 521 149
Director of Music	Brian Millar	021 253 1437
Children & Families	Anne Driver	09 849 3538

For more information email: [office@stmarks.org.nz](mailto:office@stmarks.org.nz) or visit: [www.stmarks.org.nz](http://www.stmarks.org.nz)

8.00 am

9.30 am

<b>Presider &amp; Preacher:</b>	Rev'd Tony Surman	Rev'd Tony Surman
<b>Liturgist &amp; Server:</b>	Gillian Clarke (server)	Fergus Eadie
<b>Readers:</b>	Gae Griffiths & Shiela Graham	Annette & Liberty Kaitapu
<b>Welcomers</b>	Shiela Graham	Annette Kaitapu & Annmarie Millar

#### The Vine and Branches

Recently I've been pruning trees and clipping hedges as growth on these plants slows with the coming of winter. This has perhaps been good preparation for the gospel this Sunday, in which Jesus describes himself as the vine, us as his branches, and our Father in heaven as the one who prunes the vine (not that I'm claiming any close similarity with the latter). It is one of many bucolic metaphors that Jesus uses of himself and his mission in the gospels – evidence the shepherding motifs from last week's gospel. The message is quite clear – I think; we are productive and flourish in life so long as we remain in close relationship with Christ, following his example of faithfulness towards the Father's mission even when that entails pruning of the things that are holding us back from this purpose. Our Lord allowed his life to be pruned and shaped by the Father to an extent that has not been seen before or since. We are still in the process of remembering and celebrating the most radical reshaping that occurred in Jesus' life, namely, his death and resurrection. It would not be right to say that the Father 'pruned' Jesus' life away by causing him to be crucified so that his resurrection might give us assurance of God's power to save from death, but it is reasonable to say that the Father clipped/ shaped/ pruned Jesus' life to the point where our Lord could faithfully accept the physical death that inevitably comes when pure goodness intersects with a world of selfishness and fear. Assurance that this path leads to life came in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, knowledge of which impelled the disciples forward. We see one of these early disciples, Philip the Evangelist, in action this morning (Acts 8:26-40). The pattern of Jesus' life, death and resurrection had become the key by which Philip understood the Hebrew scriptures and allowed him to unlock prophecy from those scriptures in a decisive way, moving his hearers to become branches on the vine, that is Christ, tended by God the Father.

**Tony Surman**