

Holy God, you have shown us the bread that never perishes, you are the bread of life; may we hunger for that bread above all else and seek to feed others with your life giving love. For you are alive and reign with the Father 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 174 years

1 August 2021 - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Said Eucharist

9.30 am 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	2 Aug	9.30am Mainly Music ; Baby Sensory; 4pm Ak Girls Choir
Tuesday	3 Aug	9.30am Communicare; 7pmn Alpine Sports
Wednesday	4 Aug	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP 1928) , Kinder Chapel <i>Followed by morning tea in the Paris Centre.</i> 6pm Toastmasters
Thursday	5 Aug	10am Yoga; 5.30pm Girl Guides
Friday	6 Aug	5.30pm Remuera Junior Chess Club

NEXT SUNDAY

8 Aug	8.00am Said Eucharist 9.30am Choral Eucharist
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LOOKING FORWARD

Sunday 15 August - 5.00pm Choral Evensong in honour of St Mary,

Mother of Jesus. Our Lord's Mother has been revered throughout Christian history. On this evening we will have an opportunity to reflect on St Mary's primacy as a Christian—being the first to say 'yes' to Christ. We will do so together with the Diocesan Anglo-Catholic community which worships at St Mark's on a monthly basis.

5 September - 8.00am and 9.30am, The Laurie Sheffield Memorial Sermon – *Communicating the Christian Message.* (Phil Guyan, CEO of Christian Broadcasting Association). This memorial sermon has been in abeyance for a few years but now it is back, and with a topic dear to Laurie Sheffield's heart.

3 October 9.30am Eve of St Francis – Blessing of Pets. Bring your pet along to add their voice to worship and receive the Church's blessing

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 or visit: www.stmarks.org.nz

The Bread of Life: We continue our journey through chapter 6 of John's Gospel this morning. It is rather a long chapter which reports on an important juncture of Jesus' public ministry in which bread is the symbol of focus. Last week we heard about the miraculous feeding of the multitude (5000) that followed Jesus' giving thanks for a small amount of bread and fish. This Sunday we hear the first part of a sermon he gave in Capernaum in what we can only imagine was a synagogue packed to capacity with the people who had pursued him from the other side of Lake Galilee because they had witnessed the feeding miracle. In his preaching he refers to the way that God had fed the Israelites in the wilderness, with bread (manna) from heaven – we hear about this in the first reading this morning. In a controversial move he compares himself to that bread, and claims that anyone who comes to him will never be hungry or thirsty again. From that point – where our gospel today ends – the audience begin to get more concerned. The tension rises when Jesus claims that those who 'see the Son and believe in him will have eternal life' (v.40), and when he says that people must not only come to him for salvation but eat him (v.51) – as the bread of life—many people decide that Jesus is not their 'cup of tea.' Jesus, of course, was speaking metaphorically, about the need for people to be one with him – in heart, soul and mind – in the mission, cause or purpose that God has for the world. He was talking about the need for communion – spiritual communion – with him and the one who had sent him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, into the world. Each Sunday we take bread and wine and give thanks to God for them, which calls to mind not only the Last Supper, but Jesus' teaching at this point in John's Gospel. The purpose of this act of Eucharist (Greek for 'Thanksgiving') is to maintain the bond of union between the Father, our Lord and ourselves. It is a spiritual union, signified by simple elements with the deepest of meanings attached to them.

Tony Surman