



ANGLE

Week beginning Sunday 27th April 2025

Working in partnership with Jesus – Serving Christ and the community

**Anglican Parish of Mt Maunganui
St Peter's 15 Victoria Rd, Mt Maunganui**

**Today's Liturgy: 476, Thanksgiving & Praise
Easter 2
(And Great Thanksgiving D from p14
of the Alternative Great Thanksgivings Booklet)**

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Please join us for morning tea after the service.


Sentence of the Day

Jesus said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

John 20:27

Collect of the Day:

**Alleluia, God Eternal;
locked doors or closed minds cannot bar you.
Let our questions and our doubts lead us to you.
Let us seek your truth, discern your will,
and trust your love.
Praise to you our God;
you answer prayer. Amen**

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Dear Friends

"Jesus breathed on them". Breath is both ephemeral and tangible and perhaps in some special way encapsulates who the risen Jesus was to his disciples. He was still the Incarnate Word, still enfleshed, embodied, physical. He spoke to them, he ate with them, he walked with them. And he breathed on them. While we cannot see breath, we can feel it and smell it. Did Jesus' breath still smell of the wine and food he had shared with them three nights ago or was there something there of the fragrance of heaven and new life?

In his book, *The Horse and his boy*, CS Lewis has a scene where the boy, Shasta, is up in a high mountain pass riding the horse, it was dark and he was alone and frightened.

And being very tired and having nothing inside him, he felt so sorry for himself that the tears rolled down his cheeks.

What put a stop to all this was a sudden fright. Shasta discovered that someone or somebody was walking beside him. It was pitch dark and he could see nothing ... What he could hear was breathing... Then there suddenly came a deep, rich sigh out of the darkness beside him. That couldn't be imagination! Anyway, he had felt the hot breath of that sigh on his chilly left hand... At last he could bear it no longer.

*"Who are you?" he said, scarcely above a whisper ... "you're not - not something **dead** are you?"*

Once more he felt the warm breath of the Thing on his hand and face. "There," it said, "that is not the breath of a ghost. Tell me your sorrows."

The "Thing" of course was Aslan – the Christ figure in the Chronicles of Narnia. There has been a book written on the breath of Aslan and its functions in various ways in the different stories. There is the breath behind the song of creation, the breath that gave his creatures speech. There is the scene where Aslan's breath brings creatures turned to stone back to life and energises them. In yet other places Aslan breathes on characters to give them courage and empower them. In the scene I quoted above Aslan's breath is physical and tangible and functions to reassure frightened Shasta who proceeds to confide in his companion.

The obvious theological understanding of the breath of Jesus in this week's gospel is as the giving of the Holy Spirit. But I wonder how it

functioned for the disciples at the time. Was it yet another reassurance of the presence of the tangible resurrected Jesus in their midst. Was it comforting to smell that familiar breath. Did it bring them courage and energy, was it calming and reassuring as it went along with his message of "Peace".

But breath is barely there, it is ephemeral; and this risen Jesus could move through closed doors. Jesus came and went during the next 40 days in unexpected ways. This Jesus was the beginning of the New Creation. There was something more than physical to his presence.

This is the Jesus we experience – not the one we can see with our eyes and touch with our hands. Our experience of Jesus is not feeling his warm breath but experiencing the energising and enabling Holy Spirit in our lives and our community. A Spirit who is reassuring, who gives us courage, brings peace and calms our fears. This Spirit is the barely-there breath of Jesus and the wild wind of Pentecost. This breath, this wind, this Spirit is the one who was present and participated in creation and inspires our creativity. This Spirit forms us as a new community of hospitality and inclusion, of justice and mercy, of diversity and equality, a community of hope. A community where the greatest commandment is to love one another in the same serving, sacrificial way Christ loved us.

So while we listen to the gospel this Sunday may we sense the breath of the living, risen Jesus on us, as we meditate on all that breath brings to us and all it enables us to do and be in the world.

Christ is risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Arohanui

Sue +

Alleluia!

Sometimes people have asked for copies of my sermons. You can find many of them at <https://revsuigeneris.blogspot.com/>

Readings for today

1st Reading: Acts 5:27-32

Reader: Judy Friend

2nd Reading: Rev 1:4-8

Reader: Nicola McMahon

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Reader: Sue Genner

Liturgist:

Intercessions: Carolyn Fisher

Chalice: Nicola McMahon

Greeter: Nicola McMahon

Hymns for today:

Opening: Christ is Alive - 96
Gradual: God of Queer Transgressive Spaces - Insert
Offertory: O Lord we long to see your face - 514
Closing: Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives - Insert

St Peter's Choir:

Service Setting: C Poppy



Wednesday 30th April, 10am Mid-week Eucharist at St Peter's

Service: Mid-week Eucharist

Preacher: Nicola McMahon

Readings: Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

Sentence of the Day:

The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia *Luke 24:34*

Collect of the Day:

**Almighty God,
by the glorious resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
you have broken the power of death
and brought life and immortality to light;
grant that we who have been raised with him
may triumph over all temptation
and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
We also pray for the Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation, which
provides care to vulnerable children with disabilities and their families
in Uganda.

Here in Waiapu we pray for *Anglican Care Waiapu*: Older people's
programmes, early childhood education centres, family services
(social work & counselling), Growing Through Grief services, OSCAR
programmes. Chief Executive Officer: Rawhia Te Hau-Grant and the
ACW Senior Leadership Team

We pray for our church - for wisdom, guidance, and love as we con-
sider our future together.

We pray for those in need especially those who ask for our prayers
especially: *Colin, Matthew, Coreen, Amanda, Marie, Jimmy*

Church Motto

We would like to have a church motto which captures who we are and who we welcome in a few brief words – a short pithy phrase that is memorable. Please send your ideas to Amanda. We will short-list some and you can vote on this. Google church motto or church tagline to see what some other churches do. But think and pray on finding something which honours God, reflects us and welcomes others.

Immediately following the service on Sunday morning there will be a brief meeting in St Peters about the future of St Mary's & St Peters. This meeting will be an opportunity for Sue and vestry to update you on future worship at St Mary's and some of our long-term hopes and dreams.

What is a "transgressive space"?

A "transgressive space" refers to a space that challenges or violates conventional norms, boundaries, or expectations. It can be a physical location, a concept, or a situation that disrupts established order or social structures.

In essence, it's a space where the rules of the game are being broken or bent. This term is used in our Gradual hymn today. It surely applies to Christ - when we think of God incarnate in a virgin's womb; the innocent one who was "crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell" as we recite in the Apostles Creed; the one who was resurrected and ascended. All these are surely "transgressive" places. Our inclusive God cannot be bound by societal norms and is found in unexpected places.

Parish Diary This Week

Sunday	27 April	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's
Sunday	27 April	10:30	Meeting about St Mary's	St Peters
Monday	28 April	9.00am	Recycled Teenagers	St Peter's
Monday	28 April	12.30pm	Bolivia	St Peter's
Tuesday	29 April	10.00am	Saintly Shakers	St Peter's
Tuesday	29 April	7.00pm	Scholars' Practice	St Peter's
Wednesday	30 April	10.00am	Mid-week Eucharist	St Peter's
Thursday	1 May	9.00am	Mount Art Group	St Peter's

Next Week's Readings—Easter 3

**Acts 9:1-6
Rev 5:11-14
John 21:1-19**

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Eco Church Reflection

We read in John's gospel that on that first Easter morning, Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener.
But was it a mistake?

Or does it give us a glimpse of who Jesus is –
the One who tends, restores,
and brings life to both soul and soil.

As followers of Christ, at Easter we rejoice in the resurrection that brings hope not just for humanity, but for the whole Earth.

Here in Aotearoa, when we stand and marvel at the beauty of God's creation, we are reminded that the Risen Christ is still at work, renewing not just our hearts and minds, but the whenua itself.

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP WEARING
YOUR NAME TAGS!

**Have you got enough Easter eggs
to last the next 50 days?**