

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

First Sunday in Lent



Taken by Beatrix Jones

22nd February 2026

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here we are, at the commencement of Lent once again.

The word *Lent* comes from the Old English word for spring, *lencten*, meaning *the season of lengthening days*. In the northern hemisphere, where the Church Year originates, days are lengthening; it is Spring time.

Here, in Aotearoa, the southern hemisphere, Lent coincides with the season of Autumn. However, the arrangement of an Autumn Lent can also work very well. In this season, nature concentrates her energies on the one thing necessary that life may be renewed when the globe turns once more towards the sun. Gardeners do their essential tidying and preparation, and plant their bulbs, hoping for new life in the future.

Lent like Autumn is the season of fulfilment and harvest, time of the falling off of things and their death. It is a time of transition and renewal. Just as in Autumn the world is slowly dying, so in Lent we contemplate the dryness and death that stalks our spirituality, contrasting the harvest of God's blessings with our often dry and barren spirits.

The danger of Lent is that it tends to be the church's busiest time as we add extra services and study on top of our full parish programme (I am really speaking to myself!)

May this season draw you closer to the heart of Christ.
May God renew your spirit strengthen you with hope, and fill your days with peace.

Yukiko

What we do/don't During Lent...

- 'Alleluia' and Gloria (including "Glory to Father... "after praying psalm) are omitted. The significance of 'burying the Alleluia' in Lent is to make the Alleluias of Easter Day all the sweeter as we rejoice in the resurrection.
- The altar is not to be decorated with flowers either. Lent is the season of preparing for that great moment, making our hearts fertile to receive joy.
- At Sunday services at Holy Cross, we begin with a **Lenten Candle liturgy** (meditating one of the seven last words of Jesus each week). It takes its cue from the Advent wreath — only rather than lighting a candle weekly, the Lenten "wreath" extinguishes a candle weekly! Unlike Advent, where a new candle is lit each week and the light slowly gets brighter, during Lent, each week gets progressively darker until there is complete darkness on Good Friday.

News and Upcoming Events

Settler's Morning Tea:

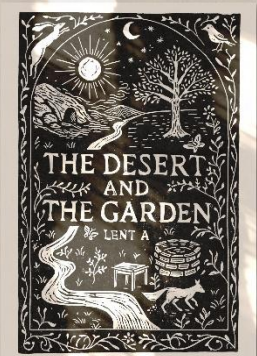


Coffee Fellowship

It was lovely to meet you on 18th Feb. We will meet again on **18th March Wednesday at 10 am** at Settler's Lounge.

Lenten Study

We will have **Lenten Study sessions** at **10 am** on **Wednesday mornings (25 Feb, 4,11,18, 25 March)** at **Holy Cross**. This Lent, those who want to are invited to enter into a guided reflective journey from **the Desert to the Garden**, drawing on the Scripture readings for the Sundays in Lent. We have purchased a beautiful art-based resource



created by a local Anglican priest Sarah Lea West, the vicar of Waiheke.

We can have a sharing time with refreshment afterwards. Please sign up (or let Yukiko know) you would like to attend it.

Diocesan Training hubs will be held on

Sunday 8 March, 1.00-4.00pm at St Aidan's, 2 Ascot Ave, Remuera.

Lunch and a short time of worship will be provided at the beginning. You can join one of the following workshop streams.

- **Curating Intergenerational Worship with Angela Blundell OR**
- **Our Faith Journeys with Karen Spoelstra OR**
- **Neurodiversity and Children's Ministry with Donna Funk OR**
- **The things I wish I knew before it happened with O'Love Uluave and Sami Smart**

If you are interested in attending, please let Yukiko know.

Dates to remember:

- **Special General Meeting (Finance): 22 March** (straight after the Sunday service at Holy Cross)
- **St. John's Ambulance's AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) refresher' course: Sunday 29 March** after Sunday service.

We pray for:

- Everyone who hires, uses or visits the site at Holy Cross and St. Michael's
- Those who have been experiencing devastating weather conditions in Aotearoa;
- Morocco after Storms Leonardo and Marta; for the 150,000 people displaced by flooding, for safety, shelter, clean water, and the resources to rebuild.

This Week's Bible Question

Which tree did the Lord God command the man not to eat from?

- A. The tree of strength B. The tree of life C. The tree of beauty
D. The tree of knowledge of good and evil

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: As the deer
Gospel: Be still and know that I am God
Offertory: God will take care of you
Recession: E Te Atua (Amazing Grace)
Music: Karin

Sentence for the day

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Readings

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
1 st Reading:	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalms	32	121
2 nd Reading:	Romans 5: 12-19	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
Gospel:	Matthew 4: 1-11	John 3: 1-17

Summary of the Scripture for this Sunday

- 1st Reading: It is about creation addresses God's lordship and human obedience, and human temptation, all of which is seen as the 'Fall of Humanity:
- 2nd Reading: The language and imagery in this reading may be rather challenging to follow. Paul talks of the origin of sin in Adam, and the free gift of forgiveness and hope in Jesus
- Gospel: Jesus is single-minded in his mission to humanity, despite the attractions of finding easier ways to achieve his hopes.

Collect for the Day

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

Liturgical Colour: Violet

This Week's Bible Question Answer: D

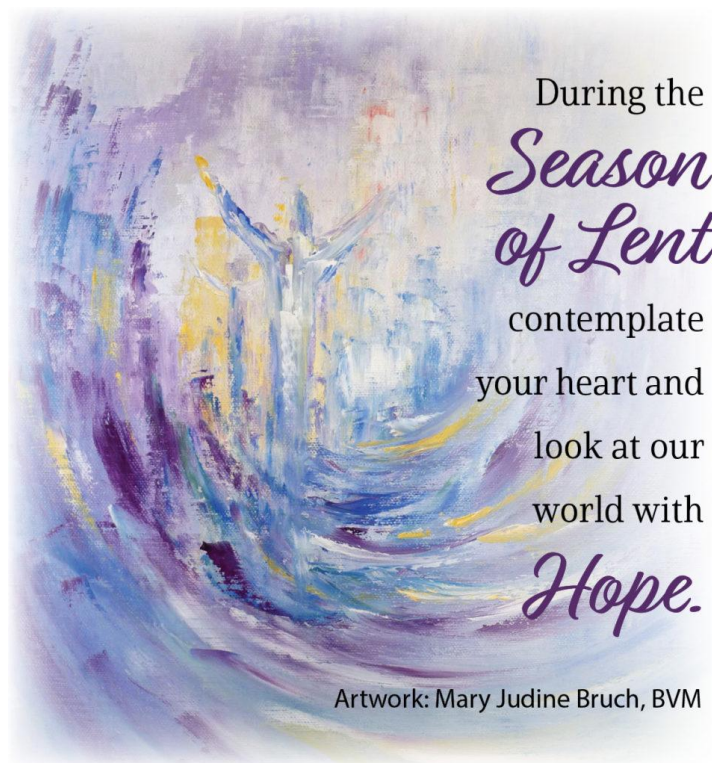
Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sacristan	Val D	Dorothy S
Welcomer	Barry	Trish D
1 Readings	Alison T	Trish D
2 Readings	Linda	Bernadette
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Yukiko	Yukiko
TV Setup & Slides	Graham	Patrick
Morning Tea	Dorothy& Ria	Robert & Trish D

St Michaels

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Prayers	Bruce	Yukiko
Readings	Bruce	Brian
Presiding	Bruce	Bruce



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Feedback welcome:

If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please contact the wardens, Dorothy & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Parish

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

www.agac.org.nz