

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday of Easter



Taken by Yukiko in her neighbourhood

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

3rd May 2026

Notes from Yukiiko's Desk



Dear friends of Holy Cross and St. Michael's,

When I was reading this Sunday's lectionary readings, two things stood out to me. First, they are all written by or to people in distress. I found it quite comforting in knowing that they are written for people who need the promise of a refuge, who need to know that help is near. I like the way how King David honestly appeals for God to reach out when he says ***"Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily"*** (Ps. 31:2). I do that so often!

Secondly, I noticed a metaphor of ***"stone"*** in every reading. I found it intriguing that these passages show we are able to see how ***"stones"*** can be used to build up or to tear down. In Acts, we learn that Stephen ***was stoned*** to death. In Psalm 31, despite their distress, David is certain that their refuge is only found in God who is a ***"rock and fortress"*** (31:3). In the second reading, Peter encourages us to see ourselves as ***"living stones."*** As I was reflecting on the image of ***"stone"*** in the lens of Peter, I came to a profound realisation. Alone, a stone seems small and insignificant, yet gathered together, shaped by grace, we become a dwelling place for God and for one another. We are not solitary believers; we are a community built on Christ, our cornerstone. Each of us has a place. Each of us carries purpose.

Finally, I am inviting you to ask ourselves this coming week; ***How are we using our stones in the world?*** To build a dam, a refuge for resilient global communities? Or are we holding on to our stones, blocking out the world around and hold on to our power and privilege?

May God surround you with peace. Yukiiko

News and Upcoming Events

Our next **Settler's Morning Tea** will be happening Wednesday, **20th May at 10 am** at Settler's Lounge.

Space Programme

This year, 17 families joined our Space whanau. They come from different parts of Auckland. This week, we had two dads participating in the group as well. It is exciting to let you know that we are joining the research project titled "The role of the Space programme during the transition to parenthood" held by the University of Auckland.

We are collecting the following things for these activities.

- clean plastic clear milk bottles (Lewis Road) and bottle lids
- empty paper towel tubes (**for this coming week**)
- ribbons, stickers, rings for preserving jars, buttons, shells, pebbles (not too small)

If you happen to have those at home, we would appreciate to receive them!

St. Michael's 70th birthday will be celebrated this coming Sunday. We will meet at St. Michael's at 9 am for the service, and then have a morning tea at the house next to the Church. If you can, please bring something for a shared morning tea.

Vestry's Day Retreat

The vestry is having a day retreat at Yukiko's place on Saturday 8th May.

We pray for:

- Aotearoa, especially those already struggling financially, in the widespread impact of the international oil shocks.
- peace amid the war engulfing the Middle East, involving the United States, Iran, and Israel, as well as the many other wars and conflicts affecting nations around the world
- our dear parishioners who now reside in rest homes
- those who attend our Fairview rest home service, and the Space programme

This Week's Bible Question

According to Peter, what have believers now obtained?

A) mercy B) wealth C) power D) knowledge

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Easter people see the light

Gospel: Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Offertory: God takes care of you

Recession: How great thou art

Sentence for the day

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me. *John 14:6*

Readings

	<u>This week (Holy Cross)</u>	<u>Next week</u>
1 st Reading:	Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17: 22-31
Psalm	31: 1-5;15-16	66:8-20
2 nd Reading:	1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3: 13-22
Gospel:	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21

Summary of the Scriptures

1st Reading: The end of the story of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

2nd Reading: includes a rich tapestry of images, most of which connect with images from the Old Testament. They all set the qualities of a new life in Christ.

Gospel: The path of discipleship has already been created by Christ. His unique relationship with God is underlined

Collect for the Day

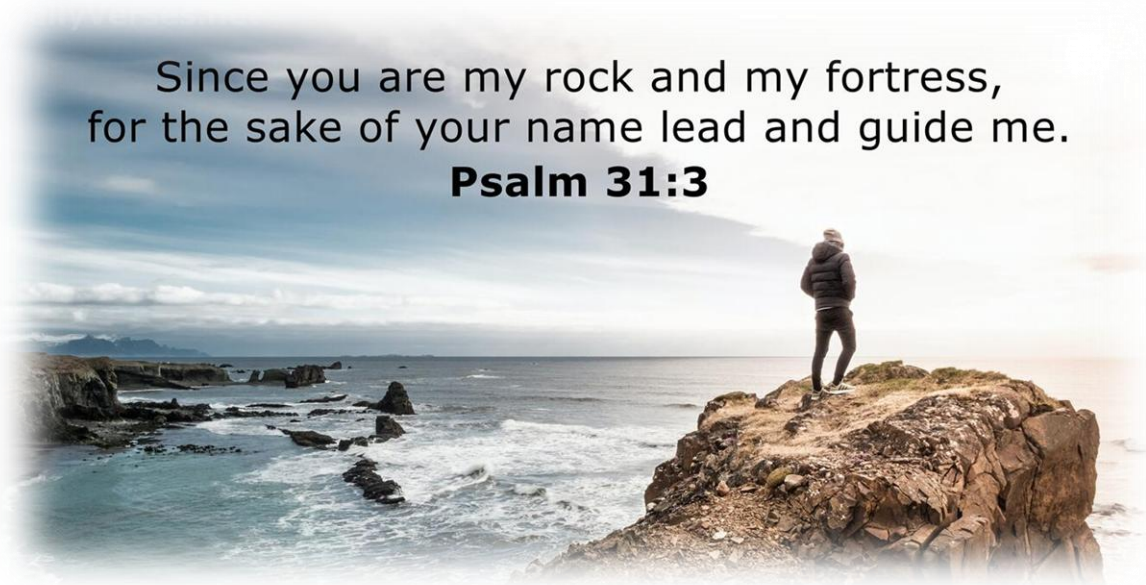
Eternal God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life for all creation; grant us grace to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Liturgical Colour: White

This Week's Bible Question Answer: A

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Psalms 31:3



Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
Sacristan	Dorothy S	Alison C
Welcomer	Trish D	Barry
1 Readings	Christian	Bernadette
2 Readings	Romela	Trish D
Presiding	Yukiko	Les
Prayers	Beatrix	Rhona
TV Setup & Slides	Karenne	Garry
Morning Tea	Beatrix and Robert	Gary & Linda
Flowers	Ria	Diana
Music	Trish G	Trish G

St Michaels

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
Prayers	Bruce	Bruce
Readings	Bruce, Les	Bruce
Presiding	Yukiko	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



Taken by Cheen in his neighbourhood

***Grant, O Lord, that Your image may always be imprinted on my
mind and in my heart,
that my interior glance may always be directed toward You,
so that I may be conformed in everything to You,
my Master, my Model, my Way!
A prayer by Dan Burke***