



**A special welcome** to visitors to West, a place of shelter, faith and laughter. We are an all-age, all-stage community where everyone is included.

**We especially love having kids** involved in the service on Sundays. So please don't worry if anyone with you makes a little bit of noise – we're glad to have you with us!

**Morning tea** is part of our time together, so you're warmly invited to stick around for a fairtrade tea or coffee after the sitting-down part of the service.

Look out for people assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

MARCH 2020

**1 MAR** Lent Week 1  
Jesus is wise

**8 MAR** Lent Week 2  
Jesus and the prophets make us brave

**15 MAR** Lent Week 3  
Jesus encourages us to make the world better

**22 MAR** Lent Week 4  
Jesus gives us a fresh start whenever we need one

**29 MAR** Lent Week 5  
Jesus is in charge of life (and death)

**5 APR** Lent Week 6  
Jesus is a surprising King



This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is the 40 day (plus Sundays) period of time leading up to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Lent prepares us for Easter. Lent is a time of reflection on the life and work of Jesus and to consider our own responses to his call to follow him. Sometimes it is a time of fasting and sacrifice. However, this need not be the focus. There is a joyous anticipation with Lent, a joy well described by Roman Catholic priest Thomas Ryan in *The Sacred Art of Fasting* (quoting via Scot McKnight's book, *Fasting*, in chapter 10)

"Fasting is one of the ways the servants [of Jesus] keep themselves alert in this future-oriented waiting until the bridegroom returns. To what could you liken their discreet, mysterious joy as they wait? You could say it is like the quiet humming or whistling of a choir member earlier in the day of a concert. It's like a mother and father cleaning the house and making up the beds in anticipation of the kids' coming home at Thanksgiving or Christmas. It's like standing in the airport terminal or train station, waiting for your loved one to appear. It's like a fiancée patiently addressing the wedding invitations: The long-awaited event is not here yet, but it will come, and this is necessary preparation. In each case the energy is upbeat, forward-looking, and marked by the quiet joy of anticipation."

This year at West we're going to be focussing not on self-denial or fasting, but on Jesus' life and work as we build toward Easter. (We will utilise Tranzsend's Prayer & Self-Denial at a later point in the year).

Each Sunday we will light a purple (Lenten) candle, remind ourselves of Jesus' life and teaching, pray prayers, be challenged to act, and have discussion ideas presented. I'm hoping this will be a nurturing time for all in our Sunday services.

However, I really hope this will be a faith deepening time in our own homes. I'd like to encourage each household to make a time each day (e.g. over breakfast or dinner, at bedtime) to use the supplied resources to do the following: - light a candle, - say a sentence to remind ourselves of Jesus' life and teaching, - pray a prayer, - be challenged to act (and report back in your household how that's gone), - and discuss an idea.

May this repetition in learning help us in joyful anticipation of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and call - to be learners of his ways.

**Andrew** 😊

Thank you Thalia Kehoe-Rowden for these ideas from her sacraparental blogs on Lent!

## west: making a difference

We have a portfolio of people and communities we support around New Plymouth and the world. The basics:

### **Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia/ NZ)**

Our plans are beginning to come together for our return to South Asia. We are aiming for mid-March to move back as a family. We would really appreciate your thoughts and prayers as this will be a tough transition. The kids have put down some roots in NZ and are old enough to now count the cost of going back. There's also an element of unknown around how Sarah will cope getting back into the places that led us to needing to leave last year. Your prayers and support are most appreciated.

**Carley (S Asia):** As I move forward to leaving in June, pray that I will be able to hand over work and organise everything for others to take responsibility.

For the teachers I work with to start to step into roles that I traditionally do.

**Charlie & Jo (S Asia):** We are aiming to get a bank account soon, so please pray for the ongoing paperwork required. We have a team visiting this month from Australia. Pray for their health and safety, and for a smooth and personally challenging programme for them.

### **Closer to home:**

We love and partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Morning Tea for staff at the start of each term, Citizenship Award, and other

areas individuals volunteer in. There are many ways you can serve our school community if you're interested.

**Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy.** Andrew spends Wednesday mornings at the school. He is a part of regular pastoral care team meetings which seek to collaboratively support children and families, and he spends time listening to and supporting children. Andrew is also working on developing a partnership between West, School and Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

**Hospital Chapel Service support.** Hospital Chapel Service Support: We are gradually having people pull out of the team, because of other changing commitments, and we are now down to only one

additional helper, so Ian and Jill would really appreciate having a couple more team members for 2020. It's not an arduous task at all, it is greatly appreciated by patients who desire to attend the services, and we only do it 4 times per year (and you'd not have to help every time.) Please talk to Ian or Jill if you can help, or if you wish to find out more about the role.

**Baking deliciousness:** Val W & Heather B made a delicious morning tea for the teachers at Spotswood Primary for the start of Term 1. It was very much appreciated. It was also an opportunity to encourage the staff in the hard work they do, and show the love and appreciation and high regard they are held in.

## west: growing

**Carey's 2020 Guided Learning options** start soon (10 Feb). These are low intensity, yet very practical courses that run online for eight months. These are designed for people in ministry leadership roles. The requirement is 5 or 6 hours of work each month with content designed to develop you in your ministry area. There are no assignments, but rather monthly reflections. The cost is \$110. Topics to choose from: Making Disciples who Make Disciples, Theology Reading Group, Good Governance, Domestic Violence within the Church, Spiritual Disciplines, Leading Multicultural Faith Communities, Being Baptist, Youth: The Theological Journey through Youth Ministry, Unlocking Revelation, Church Management, Communication Church and Society. For more info and to register: <http://www.lifelonglearning.nz/guided-learning-2020>

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westside Grill (formerly known as WestBar.) Our gatherings are held once every four weeks. See Brian M and the events section over the page for dates.

The **Ladies Tuesday Group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home. See events section for dates.

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at Grant & Megan's home on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westside Grill at 6.30pm.

**Carol and James McK** host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to check us out. If anyone new would like to join us you're welcome to come along.

**Music & Play** For parents and children under 5 years. We have a great team working well together and lots of families participating in a programme, and more importantly participating in community and friendships. We meet every Friday at 10am.

**Family Faith Night:** Families, Food, Fun, Faith. 5 – 6.30pm on the first Sunday of each month. Bring some kai to share. All children and their families are welcome.

**Impact Youth:** Youth at West has changed in 2020. This year the high-school aged youth are joining in with Mosaic Youth which meets fortnightly and generally on Friday nights at Holy Trinity Church in Fitzroy (5/6pm – 8pm). All high-schoolers are welcome. Dates coming up for this group include Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of March. We will also all be going to Easter Camp in Feilding from April 9-13<sup>th</sup>. See James M for more details.

Regarding our intermediate aged youth, talk to Andrew S for more on what's happening there.

Contact James M to be put on the text message group and/or find the facebook page for **Impact Youth New Plymouth** (Andrew will give you access to the closed group.)

**The Music Group** This month's practices will be on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

**Easter Walk Through.** Liane is organising a special Easter Walk Through (also called a Labyrinth) at West in the week leading up to Easter. Our building will be open from 12-1pm and 5-6pm on Monday 6 April – Thursday 9 April – as well as at 9:30am on Good Friday morning. This is a great opportunity to connect with God.

## west: in our community

**World day of prayer:** Friday 6 March 2020. 10am. "You are invited to join in worship and fellowship at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church" (Cnr Courtenay & Liardet Sts.)

**Parenting:** If you or somebody you know would like to participate in an outstanding parenting course, we have funds available to support people to do this. We are no longer running parenting courses, but can help connect people into them. Please contact Andrew, Naomi, Alison or Chris D, or Val W.

**Community Circle:** If you are interested in, and working for the social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of our place (Taranaki), then this gathering is for you. It is a regular (seasonal) opportunity to meet other active citizens and talk about what's happening, and what might be possible for our communities in Taranaki. I have been to these for the last couple of years and they are informative, interesting and inspiring. Four Taranaki active citizens have been invited to kick off our conversation and questions. Wednesday 11th March 2020. 9.30am – 12noon. At the NPDC Council Chambers.

Being involved in community events significant to Māori (and all of us!) is a great way to learn to be a great Treaty partner. Tuesday March 17 is one of these dates and here is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the remembering of the start of New Zealand's Land Wars – which happened up the road in Waitara. Who's keen?

6.00am: First Dawn Ceremony assemble at Te Kōhia Pā site.

6.45am: Second Dawn Ceremony assemble at the Waitara Cenotaph

7.30am: Return to Kairau Marae. Assemble at main entrance.

7.40am: Parakuihi (breakfast) at Kairau Marae

9.45am: Guided Tour of three significant sites of conflict.

Te Kōhia, Puketakauere-Ōnukukaitara, Pukerangiora Pā

12.00pm: Return to Kairau Marae for kai o te poutūtanga(lunch)

## west: people

An extra special super duper welcome to **Anne Haley Grace Peach!**

**Brian & Judy** have a new grandchild – **Caleb!** Yay for new life!

**Maureen and Jim's** son **Paul** was married to **Anita** last Friday. Congratulations!

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays **Eric P, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Jocelyn D.**

## west: events

**MAN CAMP** Northpoint Baptist Church has invited all men (including boys School Year 7 upwards) to their Man Camp over Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. Super fun stuff planned. Amazing guest speaker I've heard lots of times. March 6-8. Details are on the noticeboard.

### MARCH CALENDAR:

5,19 <sup>th</sup>	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	10,17,24,31 <sup>st</sup>	Movie Group at Grant & Megan's
6,13,20,27 <sup>th</sup>	Music & Play, at West, 10am	12 <sup>th</sup>	Music Practice
7,13,27 <sup>th</sup>	Impact Youth at Holy Trinity	16 <sup>th</sup>	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
10,24 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Tuesday Group at Heather H's home, 1pm		

## west: pitching in

**Prayer:** If you have a prayer request, please contact Andrew who would be delighted to pray with you and/or put your request on the prayer chain.

We have an **e-mail prayer chain** where a dozen people are committed to praying for any request, as they are able. All West people are encouraged to be a part of this. If you'd like to join the prayer chain as a pray-er, please contact Andrew.

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,500 per month in offerings; in January our offerings were \$10,350.00.

If you'd like to set up an **automatic payment** or use envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church please see our treasurer, Brent G. (751 0010.) The government will rebate a full third of what you give.

<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea Lawnmowing</b>	<b>7 MAR</b> Sangsters Erin R	<b>14 MAR</b> Steve J Sue J Roi SM	<b>21 MAR</b> Alison D	<b>28 MAR</b> Liane L Wayne L Allan W	<b>4 APR</b> Corey & family
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*They will know  
we are Christians  
by our love*