



Our Mission

*To honour God by proclaiming His Word in a spirit filled church, nurturing leadership, holistic growth, missions and care groups in a Discipling Environment*

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**RECTOR:** The Rev Canon David Mills

12 February 2018

## ***Lenten Reflections and Parish News***

Dear friends,

As we look forward to the beginning of Lent 2018, some thoughts about this special season in our church calendar – in the year CE 390 an intrepid nun, called Egeria, travelled to the Holy Land. There she witnessed the traditions of the church in Jerusalem, the observance of the 40 days of Lent, the mysteries of Passiontide and the joy of Easter.

Lent, as observed by Egeria at the end of the fourth century, had a focus on the preparation of both those to be baptised at the festival of Easter and that of the Christians, who had turned away from the church and wished to be re-admitted to Holy Communion. Both of these actions, baptism and re-admission to Holy Communion took place in the context of the Easter celebration. The service began at sunset, on Easter eve and continued throughout the night, with the admission of the apostate Christians to Holy Communion and baptisms taking place in the early hours of Easter morning. This was known as the Easter Vigil.

In our Liturgy we attempt to capture the spirit of the Easter Vigil at our Service of Light – this wonderful service begins at 06h00 on Easter day – in it the Paschal Candle is brought, with great solemnity, into the dark church – a powerful reminder of the light of the Resurrection of our Lord, shining into the darkness and hopelessness of death. This is followed by a set of 6 readings, which trace the account of God's salvation of humankind, through both the Hebrew and Greek Testaments. If we have baptisms on Easter Sunday, these will take place at this service.

Please note in the Pew News the very helpful suggestion of how we can observe Lent by the Marshall Home Cell Group – this really makes great sense and is an excellent suggestion. As baptisms will be at the 06h00 service on Easter Day, the bags of items are to be brought to the 09h00 service to be blessed and distributed to worthy causes.

## **Shrove Tuesday**

This begins at 18h00 on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February – details of the cost of the various pancake options will have formed part of the Pew News mailing on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Please note that we will not be taking ‘take away’ orders – this is a great opportunity for us to have fellowship as the parish family of St Michael’s – please come along and be with us at the church.

***In order for us to calculate ingredient quantities please would you kindly:***

i) ***If you were at one of our Sunday services on the 11<sup>th</sup>***, to have indicated on the list, at the back of the church, how many pancakes of the various kinds you will need;

ii) If ***you were not able to join us at the Sunday services***, please let Taynà know your requirements, via our office email, by Monday 12pm, 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## **2018 Lent Course**

Our Lent Course begins on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and will continue up to and including Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 19h30 each of these evenings in the church. The course will be both interesting and stimulating including discussion groups, lead by facilitators and looking at the following topics:

Week 1: The Journey of the Wilderness

Week 2: The remembrance of God’s name

Week 3: Fasting

Week 4: Greed, non-attachment and compassion

Week 5: The Crucified Jew

Please come along and join us, for what we are sure will be an interesting and rewarding experience. If you need any more information on the Lent Course please speak to one of the Clergy.

Wishing you a very blessed and enriching time of Lent,

Yours in Christ  
Revd. David

### Our Vision

To be a Multi-Generational Church creating a culture of discipleship where all people can Believe, Belong and Become

◆Relevant ◆Effective◆Dynamic

Followers of Jesus Christ.

