

*Living out the love of Christ in our worship and service to all people.*

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## Welcome

A warm welcome to everyone. We are glad you have joined us in this celebration of our life of faith in God. There is a special church area to help children feel at home here, and we hope you will join us for morning tea after the Service.

### **The Bible Readings for today - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

## **INTRODUCTION**

### From Darkness to Light

In our gospel passage this morning (John 3.1-17) we are introduced to Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader and Pharisee, who approaches Jesus in the night to question him. Nicodemus respects Jesus as ‘a teacher come from God’, but he is in the dark about who Jesus really is and what this means for his own life and the lives of those around him.

To help him, Jesus refers to a strange event that Nicodemus would have known well. At one point during their wanderings through the wilderness, the Israelites are attacked by poisonous snakes. As they are dying, Moses lifts a bronze serpent onto a pole, and those who look at the serpent are restored to life (see Num. 21.4-9). So too, Jesus tells Nicodemus, ‘must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.’

It seems that Nicodemus doesn’t understand what Jesus is saying, and he remains in spiritual darkness. Yet, as Jesus makes his way to the cross, Nicodemus makes his way—slowly yet surely—to Jesus. When Jesus’ body is taken down from the cross, it is Nicodemus who helps to bury him, gently wrapping his body in linen and spices as night falls. Once again Nicodemus is with Jesus in the dark. But he is no longer in spiritual darkness, for he has finally come to look upon the Crucified Messiah who is the source of eternal life. May we too always look to Jesus.

## Sentence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

*John 3:16*

## Collect

**Come Holy Spirit, to all baptised in your name,  
that we may turn to good  
whatever lies ahead  
Give us passion, give us fire;  
make us transform the world from what it is,  
to what you have created it to be.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## Notices

**Can you spare a couple of hours once a month?** If so, we have a need for people to help with the washing up at the Community Lunch on a Friday? You only need to do 1 Friday a month if that is all you can do. You would be needed between 12 noon and 1.30 pm. Please contact Menna at the office or on the office phone.

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**Lent, in the Christian church**, is a period of spiritual preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and is a chance for the Church to reflect Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

We're changing up how we approach our work in 2026. This Lent we're asking for your financial support for one (or more) of our core work programmes. You can donate by credit card using the button on the Lenten Appeal 2026 page of the Anglican Missions Board website, or by a direct deposit using the following details (simply put the name of your desired programme ie. "water", "food", "climate" or "disasters") as the reference/code: our Bank Account details are: **Account: Anglican Missions Board**  
**Number: 02-0585-0001796-00**

<b>Weekly activities at both Church sites &amp; bookshop</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>(A) = St Ambrose site</b>		<b>(C) = St Chad's site</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>(A)</b> 9.45am
	Food Bank and Cafe	<b>(A)</b> 10am—12 Noon
	Handiscope	<b>(A)</b> 1-3 pm
	Foot Clinic	<b>(C)</b> 2nd Tues of the month - Contact Menna re time
<b>Wednesday</b>	Op Shop	<b>(C)</b> 9am to 12 noon
	Eucharist	<b>(C)</b> 10am
	Parish Prayer Group	Temporarily in abeyance
<b>Thursday</b>	Elder Care Group	<b>(A)</b> 10am—12.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	Op Shop	<b>(C)</b> 9am to 12 noon
	Morning Prayer	<b>(A)</b> 9.45am
	Food Bank, Café and Firewood	<b>(A)</b> 10am—12 Noon
	Te Reo Service	<b>(C)</b> 11am
	Community Lunch - cost of meal \$5.00	<b>(C)</b> 12 noon
<b>Saturday</b>	Messy Church	<b>(A)</b> 1st Saturday of the month — 3pm to 4.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Eucharist	<b>(C)</b> 10am
<b><i>At the Barnabas Bookshop site - at 121 Seaview Road, New Brighton, in the mall there behind the Happy Feet shop.</i></b>		
<b>Days open</b>	Tuesday through Saturday inclusive (excludes Public Holidays)	Tuesday 10am to 4pm

<b><u>Next Week's Bible Readings — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</u></b>		
Exodus 17: 1-7	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42

**PARISH DIRECTORY for Linwood - Aranui**

**Website:** [www.linwood-aranuianglicanparish.com](http://www.linwood-aranuianglicanparish.com)

**Deacon - Curate:** Rev'd Dr André Muller 022 027 5913  
**Supervising Priest:** Ven Katrina Hill 029 770 3098  
**Messy Church Co-ordinator:** Rev'd Anne Russell-Brighty 027 436 6828

**Parish Recorder:** Adrian Brighty 027 824 3607  
**Bishop's Warden:** Max Joines 384 1934  
**People's Warden:** Billy Pamatangi 022 618 8420  
**Parish Manager:** Martin Witty 021 222 2007  
**Community Worker:** Menna Harries 022 691 3261

*St Chad's Church is at the corner of Carnarvon Street and Buckleys Road*

**Office – at St Chad's:** Hours 9-noon Wed, Fri 389 5833

**Email:** [linwoodstchads@gmail.com](mailto:linwoodstchads@gmail.com)

*St Ambrose Church is at 309 Breezes Road, just off Pages Road*

**Office – at St Ambrose:** Hours 10-noon Tues, Fri 388 6699

**Email:** [stambrose@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stambrose@xtra.co.nz)

*If you want to make a donation to the Parish, our bank account is:*

*Name: Parish of Linwood — Aranui: No: 03-1700-0214522-00.*

**Humour**

Our Lenten Study on the Lord's Prayer, is an example of prayer and connecting with God – the original wireless connection and not even a cell phone is needed!