

# The Hokonui Harvest

February 2026

The Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Gore & Districts  
"Where Faith and Life Meet"

LENT / EASTER



## Holy Trinity Gore

Mataura, Riversdale, Tapanui & Waikaka

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<https://www.facebook.com/goreanglican/>

The office is open 10am—12pm Tuesday and Thursday

## ***Our Vicar writes***

Greetings my sisters and brothers in Christ.

As I type this article, the sun is shining brightly on a glorious summer day. Southland at its finest which I am sure is welcomed by those who are attending the Southern Field Days event. We welcome all visitors to our special part of the world.



I am delighted that our team of Rural Chaplains are very much a part of the event this year and I pray that through them our farmers and friends will be reminded of the fact that they are valued and deeply loved by God and by the church.

On a day as beautiful as this it is easy to believe that all is well with the world. But we know that this is simply not the case. The world is mired in conflict, corruption, tribalism and cruelty. News reporters rush from one bad story to the next with no pause in-between. Equally sad is the fact that long gone are the days when we could trust what we heard and read in the news. It seems that all news is biased in one way or another. We need to be very discerning in these matters. This is why it is so important that we pray to God for guidance and understanding in all things. St John wrote: "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." (John 16:13)

Why should we trust God's guidance? Because, unlike world events and the fickleness of human nature, God is unchanging and therefore, so is Jesus who embodies the fullness of God. The author of the book of Hebrews wrote, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13: 8) A google AI generated explanation says it perfectly "This verse highlights the unchanging, eternal nature of Jesus, offering believers stability and assurance that He remains consistent throughout time. It emphasizes trust in a steadfast Saviour despite life's inconsistencies."

Debbie and I enjoy watching 'The Chase' on tv. One bit of advice that the Chasers always give to the contestants is "Always trust your gut instinct" I concur because we are all created by God, in the image of God and so the truth is in our DNA. If something does not feel or sound right, it probably isn't. When a bell rings in your subconscious, pray for guidance and the Holy Spirit will lead you to the truth.

I think that it is important to stay up to date with what is happening in the world, but, as I said, be very discerning, perhaps more so in an election year! The church is the body of Christ and so it goes without saying that we are here

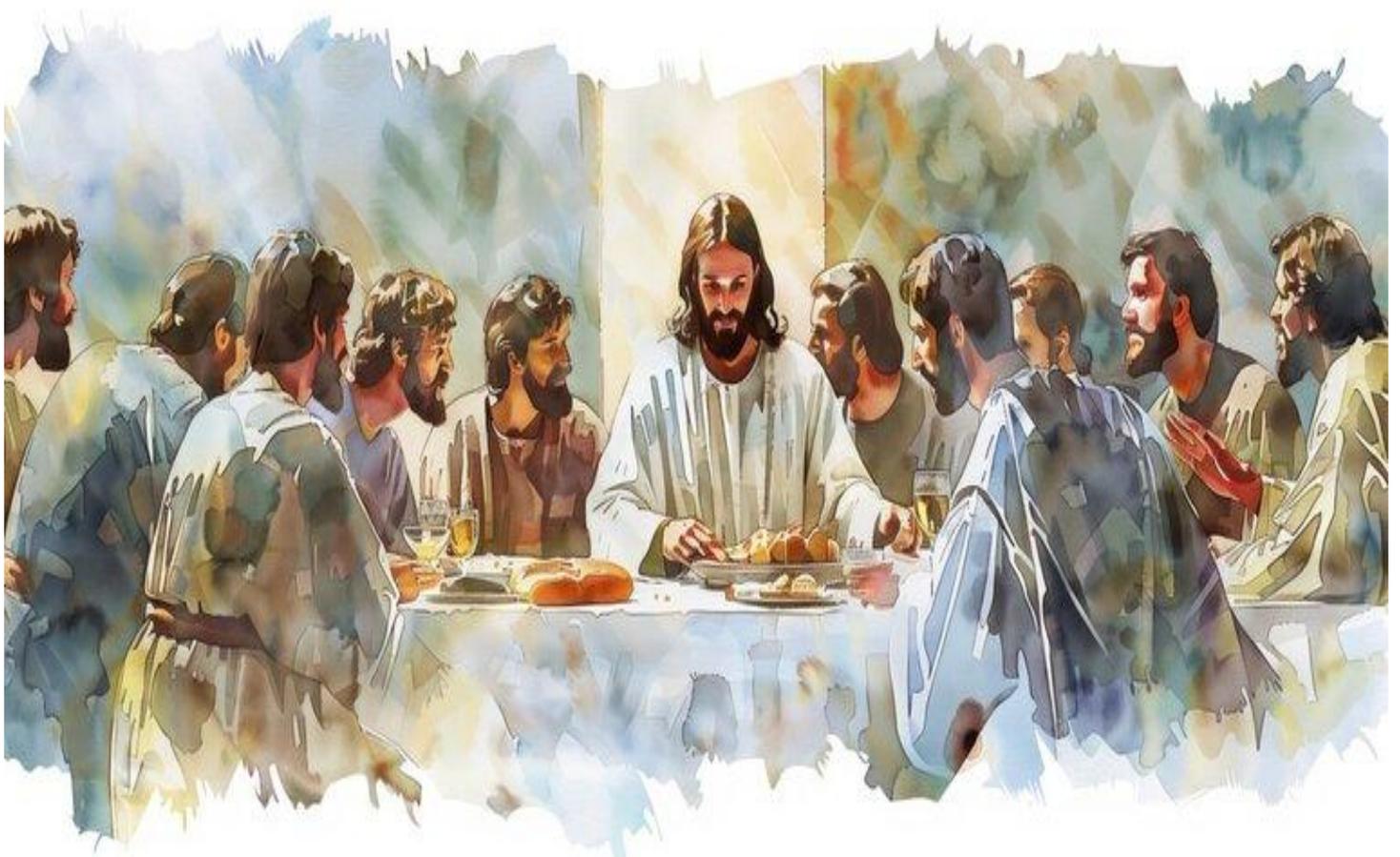
for you at all times. Yes, I admit that we have let many people down very badly at times, but we have not abandoned anyone.

The parish has initiated an 'Hour of Power' from Monday to Saturday. We have set aside two 30 min blocks during which everyone in the parish is asked to pray for the parish. This can be for one minute up to 30 minutes. Every week we publish names from the parish roll in our newsletter alongside other prayer needs. This means that every person in the parish will be prayed for at least 5 times every year. The prayer slots are: 7am-7:30am and 4pm-4:30pm. My commitment is to pray for every person on the parish roll during the afternoon time slot.

We have remembered Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. May this be for all of us a time of preparation and restoration as we prepare for the dramatic events that preceded Easter Sunday; and then rejoice as we remember the triumphant resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter morning. I wish you all a very blessed Easter when we get there. Remember that we are here for you and would love to see all of you participating in the life of our church. There is 'plenty of room at the Inn'.

With love and Blessings in Christ.

Gary



# Lent & Easter Services



## **LENT / EASTER SERVICES**

**Sunday 22 February - Lent 1**

10.00am Family Eucharist

**Sunday 1 March - Lent 2**

8.00am Eucharist and 10.00am Family Eucharist

**Sunday 8 March - Lent 3**

10.00am Family Eucharist

**Sunday 15 March - Lent 4**

10.00am Family Eucharist

**Sunday 22 March - Lent 5**

10.00am Family Eucharist

# Lent



# Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

**at Holy Trinity**

**Sunday 29 February - Palm Sunday**

10.00am Family Eucharist

**Tuesday 31 March - Chrism Eucharist**

6.00pm at Holy Trinity Church, Invercargill

**Wednesday 1 April**

9.30am Eucharist

**Thursday 2 April - Maundy Thursday**

6.00pm Shared Meal and Service

Stripping of the church and half hour vigil

**Friday 3 April - Good Friday**

9.00am Good Friday Liturgy

**Saturday 4 April - Easter Eve**

5.00pm Celtic Service

**Sunday 5 April - Easter Day**

10.00am Family Eucharist

# Guide to Holy Week



## Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



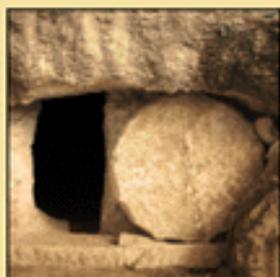
## Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



## Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



## Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



## Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



## *Parish Annual General Meeting*

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Parishioners of **The Parish of Gore & Districts** will be held in the **Narthex** on **Sunday 15 March 2026** following the **10am service** for the purpose of:

- Appointing a Vicar's Warden
- Electing a People's Warden
- Electing two Synod Representatives
- Electing not less than three or more than eight Vestry Committee members for the next year
- Receiving the audited accounts of the Parish of Gore & Districts
- Transaction of any other business connected with the Parish

*at which time and place all parishioners, being of the age 16 years and upwards, who shall have been registered for a period not less than two months on the Parish Roll and are not registered on the Roll of any other Parish, are entitled to speak and vote.*

*Eligibility for election to Vestry*

- Communicant
- 16 years upwards
- Not serving on any other Vestry

***Make sure you are there to share in the future of our Parish***

Nomination forms are in the Narthex / Nominations close mid-day 24 March

### **CHRISM EUCHARIST – Tuesday 31 March at 7pm, Holy Trinity Church, Invercargill**

This is the service where laity and clergy renew their Baptismal and Ordination vows before each other. Chrism Oil is consecrated and people are commissioned for any appropriate tasks. This service has been well attended in recent years and most parishes will have participants in varied parts of the service.

**The pot luck tea starts at 6pm.**

**Maundy Thursday 2 April at Holy Trinity commences at 6pm with a shared Agape Meal enjoyed by the family of Christ** (*The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship)*)

You are invited to bring a plate—either salad, cold meat or dessert.

Would you please add your name to the list in the Narthex so that we will know numbers for setting up and also tick off what you will bring.



**Donations of Hot Cross Buns for Morning Tea on Good Friday are welcome.**

### **Annual Offertories**

A memo for those who make annual offertories - the end of the tax year is coming up - 31 March

For those on the **Parish of Gore & Districts planned giving system who wish to continue using numbered** envelopes for cash giving during 2026/2027 please let Eleanor know so that these can be delivered late March/early April

**Receipts** for all offertories given between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 will be delivered mid—late April.

### **Direct credit or online deposits**

Account name Holy Trinity Church

Account number 06-0923-0004683-00

Reference Please use either your name or your envelope number (or both)

If not on the Planned Giving (envelope system) use '**offertory**' for the reference

If you wish to donate

- to the Dunbar's fund use 'Dunbars' in the reference
- to the Lenten Appeal use 'Lent Appeal' in the reference

If anyone wishes to join the regular offertory system - either by envelopes or direct credit please phone the Recorder, Eleanor Groves 208 4027 or 027 688 7000

Receipts may be used for tax purposes.

### ***Flowers for Easter Services***

If anyone has white or gold flowers they would be appreciated for the Easter decorations. Please leave at the Church on Good Friday.



**AAW (Association of Anglican Women)** meets on the first Monday of the month at 2pm in the Narthex commencing with a short service and either a speaker or an activity following the short meeting.

On Wednesday 23 March following the 9.30am Eucharist we will be making palm crosses ready for Palm Sunday. All are very welcome to join us in the Narthex.

## Monthly Parish Fellowship Dinners at Croydon Lodge



Dates for the diary —17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October and 17 November. Phone the hotel 208 9029 by 3pm on the day to book in with the Holy Trinity Group. Remember we receive a 25% discount off the meal cost.



Croydon Lodge very generously give each person having a birthday, a free lunch during the month of their birthday. If you would like to be part of this group please let Anne Gover know, so that you can be added to the birthday list. This is a women-only group, but men could consider setting up a men's birthday lunch group if they were interested.

**The Anglican Missions  
2025 Lenten Appeal will be  
launched on  
Ash Wednesday 18  
February**



This year we are asked to support one or more of their core work programmes:  
For more information, visit [anglicanmissions.org.nz/lent](http://anglicanmissions.org.nz/lent)

### **Water and Sanitation**

Access to safe water and facilities is a fundamental human right. This programme provides safe water and appropriate sanitation for those most in need.

### **Food and Livelihoods**

When is the last time you were hungry? For millions of people, that's their day to day reality. This programme supports sustainable food systems and livelihoods around the world.

### **Climate and Environment**

This is the only Earth we have. We have a responsibility to look after it. A donation to the Climate and Justice programme helps provide sustainable and just solutions for people, communities and the planet.

### **Disasters and Resilience**

From floods and cyclones to conflict and displacement, disasters take many forms. We help communities prepare in advance, and we respond when crisis strikes.

Donations may be placed in an envelope labelled Lenten Appeal and placed in the Offertory Bag at church or by direct credit into the church bank account with your name and Lenten Appeal shown.

Starting Thursday 16 April  
through to Thursday 24 September

## SOUP AND BUNS LUNCH EVERY THURSDAY AT 12 NOON IN THE NARTHEX

You are welcome to come after the 10.30am Bible Study  
or to just come for lunch at mid-day.

Soup and buns will be supplied - silver coin donation

*SEE YOU THERE*

***Lord, I thank you for the finished work of the cross.  
I praise you for the resurrection that brings hope I will  
have everlasting life. Teach me to acknowledge what  
you have done for the world through salvation on a daily  
basis. Forgive me if I have neglected to share the gospel  
due to feeling incapable or uncomfortable. I pray for  
opportunities to share my faith. I ask for boldness to tell  
others about the resurrection. In Jesus' name, Amen!***

Victoria Riollano



**Crosswalk**





We will be rostered to assist with delivering Meals on Wheels during 2026. If you can assist, please fill in the roster on the Narthex Noticeboard when our week is announced in the Link.



## **CHURCH ROSTERS**

Anyone interested in joining any of the following church rosters please contact the following people to find out what is involved.

Silver Cleaning / Sanctuary / Morning Tea / Hospital Visiting / Welcomers / Readers / Intercessors – contact Hannah Stewart 208 7366

Flowers - contact Davina Prattley 208 6141

Power Point – contact Anne Gover 208 5235 or 027 311 0625

We would really appreciate more members on these rosters.

## **Residential Homes Services**

If you are interested in joining the team taking services around the Rest Homes on a Sunday afternoon, please contact Gary Griffith-Smith Phone 032087366



## The Origin of Lent

The practice of Lent has ancient roots in early Christianity, dating back to the first centuries after Christ's death and resurrection. According to Eusebius, a fourth century historian of the early church, the earliest Christians seem to have practiced fasting in preparation for Easter, even if it was for just one or two days.

After the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313, the practice of Lent gradually became more established, including a 40-day period of Easter preparation that focused on prayer and fasting. The number 40 holds biblical significance: During Noah's flood, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights; Moses remained on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights preparing to receive the Ten Commandments; and Elijah walked for the same amount of time to reach the mountain of God. More importantly, observers of Lent fast and pray in imitation of Jesus, who was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights to face temptations from the devil before he began ministering to the public.

Leaders of the early Christian church agreed at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 that Easter should be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. They also acknowledged the existence of a 40-day preparatory period leading up to that holy Sunday, though they did not mandate the observance of Lent.

In 601, Pope Gregory I moved the start of Lent to 46 days before Easter, allowing for 40 days of fasting plus six Sundays, the traditional feast day, when the rules of fasting did not apply. The Lenten season still spans 46 days today.

Gregory (590-604) also established the tradition of Ash Wednesday, including the foundations of the now-common practice of marking parishioners' foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross. Like the number 40, ashes have roots in ancient Christian traditions. Several figures in the Old Testament,

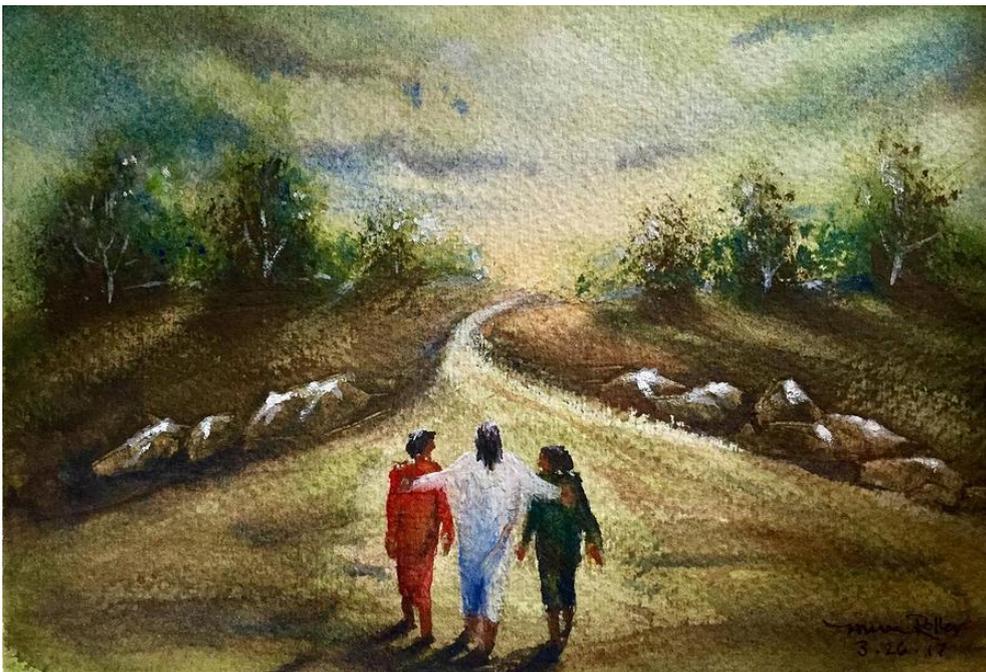
including Mordecai, Job and Daniel, marked themselves with ashes and wore sackcloth as a sign of their repentance before God. People in the early church carried on this usage of ashes for symbolic reasons.

Source: <https://www.history.com/articles/lent-history>

## Emmaus

We thought that everything was lost and gone,  
Disaster on disaster overtook us  
The night we left our Jesus all alone  
And we were scattered, and our faith forsook us.  
But oh that foul Friday proved far worse,  
For we had hoped that he had been the one,  
Till crucifixion proved he was a curse,  
And on the cross our hopes were all undone.

*Oh foolish foolish heart why do you grieve?  
Here is good news and comfort to your soul:  
Open your mind to scripture and believe  
He bore the curse for you to make you whole  
The living God was numbered with the dead  
That He might bring you Life in broken bread.*





We meet

on a Thursday at 10.30am in the Narthex &  
on a Friday at 4 Lennox Street at 10.15am

Study <sup>the</sup> Bible  
with us



You're not expected to know your Bible from cover to cover. We are all learning together and enjoy much laughter as we learn new things that we have never noticed before in the Bible. If you have never been part of a bible study group or have had a bad experience in the past, be brave this Lent, and come and join one of these study groups.

## **Regular Services in the Parish**

*These services are listed in the weekly pew sheet, the Link, and will also be shown on the parish website*

*<https://goreanglican.co.nz/> which is being managed by Anne Gover.*

## **Pastoral Care in the Parish**



If anyone is in hospital could a family member or friend please let us know so that pastoral care and support from the Hospital Visiting Team can be arranged. Also if you know of anyone who is sick or is unwell at home and requiring a visit or home communion please let us know. Pastoral Care is co-ordinated from the Office and passed on to either clergy or an appropriate visitor.

## **Contacts in the Parish**

**Vicar** Rev'd Canon Gary Griffith-Smith 03 208 7366 or 027 267 0030

**Office Administrator** Hannah Stewart 03 208 7366 or 021 203 0828

**Parish Office** 15 Trafford Street, Gore 03 208 7366

**Local Priest** Rev'd Bruce Cavanagh 03 208 4538 or 021 0295 1283

**Permission to Officiate** Rev'd Christopher Rodgers 03 208 5282  
or 027 814 1027

**Vicar's Warden** Patricia Tytler 03 208 5684 or 027 367 6806

**People's Warden** Heather Hetaraka 03 208 5644  
or 027 233 4748

**Vestry Secretary/Treasurer** Anne Gover 03 208 5235  
or 027 311 0625

**Parish Recorder** Eleanor Groves 03 208 4027 or 027 688 7000

**Music** Anne Gover 03 208 5235 or 027 311 0625

**Hospitality** Heather Hetaraka 208 5644 or 027 233 4748

**Riversdale** Sue Sanson 03 202 5606 or 027 202 5606

**Tapanui** Esme Sim 03 204 2272

**Waikaka** Pat Childs 03 207 2746