

BRIEF HISTORY OR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Eighty-six years ago this month, the original St. John's Church was dedicated on the same site as the present building. Five years earlier, in 1874 however, the Rev. Phillip Walsh was taking the first services ministering to the early settlers who, in those difficult days felt the need of a House of Prayer to give thanks for the harvest of the good soil.

In 1876 Waitara became a Parochial District. At this time Mr. Walsh gave land for a Church and supervised its building. The "Taranaki News" reported at the dedication "The weather was atrocious, but the Church full and the collection £31." The oldest church in the Diocese, St. Mary's, New Plymouth, had already been standing for thirty-four years.

The Lych Gate and stone wall were built by Mr. Wickham during the days of the Rev. G. H. Gavin who was connected with Waitara for forty years.

In 1951 the Parochial District boundaries were altered. Pukearuhe, Okoke, Uruti and Pehu were added to Waitara while Lepperton became part of the Fitzroy Parish.

Some five years later the Vestry successfully presented a Bill before the Diocesan Synod for Parish status. In the following year, 1957, during the launching of the Canvass, the parishioners were made aware of the need for a new church. "Our need - our pressing need is a Parish Church - a Church that will stand as a witness to the wholeness of the Parish." Within two years the present St. John's had been built.

On November 7th, 1959, the Bishop of Waikato, the Right Reverend J. T. Holland, M.A., laid the foundation stone and the following year on July 16th, 1960, St. John's was dedicated to the Glory of God.



Order of Service

for

The Consecration

of

The Church of
Saint John the Baptist
Waitara

by

The Lord Bishop of Waikato
(The Right Reverend J. T. Holland, M.A.)

on

Saturday, October 30th, 1965

Order of Service

While the Clergy and Choir proceed to their seats the following hymn will be sung:—

Thy hand O God has guided Thy flock from age to age: Thy wondrous tale is written, Full clear on every page; Our fathers owned thy goodness, And we their deeds record; And both of this bear witness; One Church, one faith, one Lord.	Through many a day of darkness, Through many a scene of strife, The faithful few fought bravely, To guard the nation's life; Their Gospel of redemption Sin pardoned, man restored, Was all in this enfolded One Church, one faith, one Lord.
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Thy heralds brought glad tidings To greatest, as to least; They bade men rise, and hasten To share the great King's feast; And this was all their teaching, In every deed and word, To all alike proclaiming One Church, one faith, one Lord.	Thy mercy shall not fail us, Nor leave thy work undone; With thy right hand to help us, The Victory shall be one; And then by men and angels, Thy name shall be adored, And this shall be their anthem; One Church, one faith, one Lord.
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The Vicar and Churchwardens shall proceed to the main door of the Church as the Bishop, attended by his Chaplain, and by the Archdeacon of Taranaki, the Diocesan Registrar and the Chairman of the Taranaki Church of England Trust Board, approaches it from the outside. The congregation will stand and face the door.

The Bishop shall knock three times at the door and say:

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

The Congregation shall say:

Who is the King of Glory?

The Bishop shall answer:

The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

The Church Warden shall then open the doors and hand the key to the Bishop.

A Petition signed by the Vicar and Church Wardens shall be delivered to the Bishop praying that he will consecrate the Church. The Bishop will receive the Petition, order it to be read by the Vicar, and signify his consent to consecrate the Church according to the Prayer therein contained.

The Bishop shall then say:

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord.

The Bishop shall enter the Church and say:

The Lord be with you.

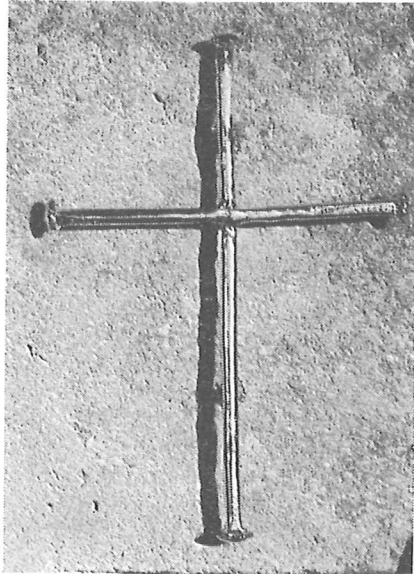
The Congregation shall respond:

And with thy Spirit.

The Bishop shall say:

Enter, O Lord, we beseech Thee, this House, and within the hearts of Thy faithful people establish for Thyself an everlasting habitation, that this Church which is built to Thy Glory, may be glorified also by Thy abiding presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace be to this House from God our heavenly Father
Peace be to this House from Christ who is our Peace
Peace be to this House from the Holy Ghost the Comforter.



THE SYMBOL ABOVE

A Cross made of nails from the old Saint John's Church building, mounted on a piece of stone from the Marsden Cross at Opihi Bay, in the Bay of Islands, where the first Christian Gospel was proclaimed symbolises the linking of the past to the present, and going forward together, Maori and Pakeha, one in Christ, to carry the message of the Saviour to future generations.

(We are indebted to Clifford Allen for the photograph of the symbol.)

The shall be sung the following psalm, during which the Bishop will proceed to the Sanctuary.

The earth is the Lord's, and all that / therein / is : the compass of the world and / they / that / dwell there / in.

For he hath founded it up / on the / seas : and pre / pared it up / on the / floods.

Who shall ascend into the / hill of the / Lord : or who shall rise up / in his / holy / place?

Even he that hath clean hands and a / pure / heart : and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor / sworn to de / ceive his / neighbour.

He shall receive the blessing / from the / Lord : and righteousness from the / God of / his sal / vation.

This is the generation of / them that / seek him : even of them that / seek thy / face O / Jacob.

Lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye ever / lasting / doors : and the King of / Glory / shall come / in.

Who is the / King of / Glory : it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the / Lord / mighty in / battle.

Lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye ever / lasting doors : and the King of / Glory / shall come / in.

Who is the / King of / Glory : even the Lord of hosts / he is the / King of Glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

The Bishop shall then lay the Key of the Church upon the Altar.

The congregation shall remain standing whilst the Bishop blesses these gifts made since the Dedicaiton of the Church on 16th July, 1960:—

Altar Lectern
Bishop's Chair
Flower stands.

O Thou who art the author of every good and perfect gift; who by thy Holy Spirit dost inspire the skill of artist and craftsman; accept, we pray thee, these offerings at our hands for the adornment of thy sanctuary; let thy blessing abide upon those who shall use these gifts; and grant that thy people may be led to worship thee in the beauty of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BELL

Almighty God, who willest that the call of the Gospel shall be heard in all lands; bless and hallow this bell; and grant that through this generation and those yet to come, it may continually call thy faithful people to praise and worship thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CROSS OF NAILS

Having returned to the Sanctuary, the Bishop shall bid the people kneel and pray in silence for God's blessing upon the Church.

After which the following hymn shall be sung, the congregation still kneeling:

Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire	Annoint and cheer our soiled face
And lighten with celestial fire;	With the abundance of thy grace
Thou dost thy sevenfold gifts impart,	Keep far our foes, give peace at home,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.	Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Thy blessed unction from above,	Teach us to know the Father, Son
Is comfort, life and fire of love,	And Thee of Both, to be but One;
Enable with perpetual light	That through the ages all along
The dullness of our blinded sight.	This may be our endless song.

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, son and Holy Spirit.

Then shall the Bishop rise and say this prayer, the people still kneeling:

Let us Pray:

Come, O Lord we beseech Thee, and sanctify this House for Thy worship, for common prayer and praise and thanksgiving, for the reading of Holy Scripture, for the Ministry of Thy Word and Sacraments, for the spiritual sacrifices of Thy Church and for the blessing of the people in Thy name. Fill it with everlasting light, adorn it with heavenly gifts and make it a House of Prayer for all who come to Thee. Here may the tempted find power, the sorrowing find comfort and the bereaved find the truth that death hath dominion over us; here let the fearing find new courage and the doubting find faith; here may sinners find Thy forgiveness, and the sick Thy healing power.

Let Thine ears be attentive to our Prayers, and grant that with the intercession of Thy whole Church, they may ascend unto Thee : Through the mediation of our great High Priest, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE CONSECRATION

O blessed majesty of God, filling, containing and ordering the whole world;

O Holy King of Saints, builder, upholder and defender of the Universal Church;

O Blessed hand of God, sanctifying, blessing and replenishing all things;

O Blessed and Holy Trinity, who dost give purity, strength and beauty to that which Thou hast created, we most humbly beseech thee of thy mercy that thou wouldst bless and consecrate this Church with the everlasting fullness of thy sanctifying power; who livest and reignest ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The congregation shall stand.

THE WITNESS OF THE CONSECRATION

The Bishop shall then proceed to make his mark of Consecration on the building and shall say:

THIS DWELLING IS GOD'S HABITATION. IT IS A POSSESSION ABOVE ALL PRICE, WHICH MAY NOT BE SPOKEN AGAINST.

He then gives instructions that the Cross of Consecration be cut.

The Bishop shall then return to the Chancel steps and, seated in his chair, shall say:

Let the congregation be seated, and let the Sentence of Consecration be read.

This done, the Bishop shall sign the document upon the Altar, the Vicar and Churchwardens also signing as witnesses. Then, the congregation standing, the Bishop shall say:

BY VIRTUE OF OUR SACRED OFFICE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD WE DO NOW DECLARE TO BE CONSECRATE AND FOR EVER SET APART FROM ALL PROFANE AND COMMON USES, THIS CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST TO THE GLORY OF THE EVER-BLESSED TRINITY, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Choir and Congregation shall sing:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, angelic host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

And the Bishop shall say:

May the power and presence of God be with you in all that you do for Him in His glorious habitation. Amen.

HYMN

O word of God above Who fillest all in all Hallow this house with thy sure love And bless our festival.	Here Christ to faithful hearts His Body gives for food; The Lamb of God himself imparts The chalice of his Blood.
Here from the font is poured The grace to cleanse from sin; Here the anointing of the Lord Confirms the soul within.	Yea, God enthroned on high Here also dwells to bless; Here trains adoring souls that sigh His mansions to possess.

All might, all praise be thine
Father, co-equal Son,
And Spirit, bond of love divine,
While endless ages run.

Then shall follow the Office of

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Collects.

Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone; grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple, acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EPISTLE — St. Peter, 2 : 1.

Wherefore laying aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner-stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

THE GOSPEL — St. John 4: 21.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God

is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, e will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her: I that speak unto thee am He.

THE NICENE CREED

Then shall the Bishop address the people.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Almighty Father, Lord most high, Who madest all, who fillest all, Thy name we praise and magnify, For all our needs on thee we call.	All that we have we bring to thee Yet all is naught when all is done Save that in it thy love can see The Sacrifice of thy dear Son.
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We offer to thee of thine own Ourselves and all that we can bring In Bread and Cup before thee shown Our universal offering.	By his command in Bread and Cup His Body and his Blood we plead; What on the Cross he offered up Is here our Sacrifice indeed.
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For all thy gifts of life and grace,
Here we thy servants humbly pray
That thou would'st look upon the face
Of thine annointed Son today.

The Prayer for the Church Militant.

The Invitation, General Confession, Absolution and Comfortable Words.
The Sursum Corda, with the Proper Preface:

Who, though the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, and Thy glory is all the world: Dost deign to hallow places for Thy worship, and in them dost pour forth gifts of grace upon Thy faithful people. Therefore with Angels, etc.

The Prayer of Humble Access.

The Prayer of Consecration.

The Lord's Prayer.

The Prayer of Oblation.

The Gloria in Excelsis.

Then the Bishop shall say:

O Eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life, we beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have loved and served thee here and are now at rest, may with them enter into thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING RECESSIONAL HYMN

- 1 Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore him;
Praise him, angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him,
Praise him, all ye stars and light.
Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken;
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws, which never shall be broken,
For their guidance he hath made.
- 2 Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;
Never shall his promise fail;
God hath made his saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, his power proclaim;
Heaven and earth and all creation,
Laud and magnify his name!