



ST PAULS

est. 1841

- ST PAUL'S LADY CHAPEL -

# PRAYER ROOM

*walking through the wilderness*

# Welcome

This Lent, we're joining in a global prayer movement; walking through the wilds of faith in the footsteps of The Desert Fathers and Mothers. These early Christian pioneers sought God in the solitude of the Egyptian wilderness. Leaving behind the corruption of the world and compromise of the church, they therefore imitated Christ's own time in the wilderness, to reclaim old standards of discipleship, sacrificing comfort to pursue holiness.

As we walk through the wilderness this Lent season, we are holding the image gifted to St Paul's by Rev. Te Karere Scarborough; the dynamic Māori equivalent of our vision statement 'With Jesus, For Jesus'.

## WHAIA NGA TAPUWAE O IHU KARAITI O TE PUNA WAI ORA

*Follow in the way of Jesus, the source of Living Water*

- Whaia** This word means to follow, chase, pursue, look for and search for.
- Tapuwae** This term means footprint or tread. A well-used metaphor for the action and impressions left by ancestors, heroes and famous figures within the Māori world.
- There is also the sense of Jesus' imprint, left on followers who have been impacted by their relationship with Him.
- Ihu Karaiti** The Māori name for Jesus Christ, anchoring our faith and emphasising His importance in our lives



**Puna ora** A biblical reference to John 4 and 7, meaning Living Water. This also ties into the geographical and historical well the church was built on.

The symbolism here is that Jesus, like a well, is the reason a community gathers together.

As we walk through the wilderness, we are following Jesus, walking in His footsteps. We are changed by the imprint he leaves on us, growing in holiness.

As we walk through the wilderness, we are gathering around Jesus, our well of Living Water. Our loves are reordered and our souls are refreshed.

Feel free to engage with the stations in this space as you are led and use this booklet as your guide. You may choose to engage with all of them, or none of them.

Take a moment to still your spirit, to gather your scattered senses, and enter this space with your whole self, remaining open to how God may want to meet with you.



# Footprints

You will see a series of footprints leading towards the altar.

*“When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” So, God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.” -Exodus 13: 17-18*

As we step through the wilderness, we are walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. We walk in the way of Jesus and the temptation he faced in the desert, preparing him to step into his world-changing life of ministry. We walk in the way of the Israelites and the 40 years they wandered in the desert, preparing them to be a faithful people who would make God’s glory known.

Often in our wilderness wandering, God leads us on a path that looks different from the one that gets us somewhere quickly, or from the one we are expecting. This is for our good and for His glory.

*Turn the page.*



1. Walk along the path. As you take your first steps, open your hands and lay down any disappointments you may be carrying.
2. As you take another step, say sorry for the times you have gone your own way and not followed the path God has for you.
3. As you take your final steps on the path, ask God to show you the ways He is preparing and forming you, for your good, and for His glory.
4. Thank God that He walks the road with you and makes a way.



# The Well

1. Approach the well to the right of the altar
2. Reflect on the passage from John 4:1-14 (laid out around the foot of the well). Where do you go when you are thirsty, weary, and aching? Are there other wells in your life you seek to fulfil your deepest longings?
3. Place your hands in the water as a way of releasing these empty wells and receiving the Living Water Jesus promises.
4. Read Psalm 63 (laid around the dish of water), perhaps aloud, as a way of redirecting your longing to Jesus. Pour out your needs and desires before Him and receive His refreshment.
5. If you are with others, you may choose to gather around the well and offer prayers of praise to Jesus together. Are there particular ways our community can draw from His Living Water?



# Fresh Vision

## **WHAIA NGA TAPUWAE O IHU KARAITI O TE PUNA WAI ORA**

You will see a low table to the left of the altar, with paper, pens, and pencils to colour in the Māori dynamic equivalent of our vision statement. As you reflect on the rich imagery of these words, you may wish to colour them in, fill the letters with prayers, or consider a word that especially stands out to you.

What invitation might God be offering you in these words? What invitation may He be offering our church whānau? What might it look like to embody these words?

Take the vision statement with you and hang it somewhere as a reminder to gather around Jesus as our sustaining source of Living Water, the sacred well of our community.



# prayer Wall

Laid on the floor below the three stained-glass windows to the left, you will find paper and pens. This is a space to offer written prayers, or to take note of what you feel the Spirit is saying. This could be in drawings, colours, or writing, and is a beautiful way to creatively capture this season of prayer in our church whānau.

You can pin your prayers on the corkboard, and feel free to reflect on the prayers of others as well.





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