

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 28 April 2024

Easter 5

Greetings:

Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

At this time of year (perhaps unsurprisingly) I quite often find myself distracted by busyness. Advent and Christmas have flowed quickly into Lent and Easter and then ANZAC Day arrives. I quite often find myself at the end of April wondering where January went. At times like this I find great solace in Daily Office; an obedient rhythm of contemplation and reflection that restores my soul. The simplicity and repetition of it is what I enjoy most ... I just have to turn up and engage in it ... and leave space to be drawn into the grace and comfort of prayer.

And then we look at our lectionary and we see themes of great joy, of new beginnings, of growth and abundance; it can all seem so tiring ... why can't we just slow down and get ready for winter? Our readings this week and next create images of Christ as the vine/ vineyard ... with references, implicit and explicit, to pruning and training, and harvest, and productivity and abundance ... and expectation ... or else!

Don't be afraid. There's joy in there too. Thorough knowledge, careful pruning, detailed planning might lead initially to lower volumes ... but what eventually grows on the vines is of better quality as a consequence, and is therefore suitable for development into great wine. The process requires great discernment (read God's grace) along

with plenty of sun and rest that eventually produces the best fruit.
Wonderful stuff ... but produce fruit we must.

Grace and peace.

Tony

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 28 April 2024

Sentence

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one
another. *1 John 4:10-11*

Collect

**Christ of the new covenant, give us the happiness to share, with full
measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, all that
You give us. Hear this prayer for Your love's sake. Amen.**

OT Reading *Acts 8: 26-40*

NT Reading *1 John 4: 7-21*

Gospel *John 15: 1-8*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Bricks for Life programme in Ethiopia and for
the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

We pray for those in need, especially those who ask for our prayers:
Craig, Reece, James, Viv, James F.

Taizé at St George's, Gate Pa

You are invited to the next contemplative service based on the style and music of the Taizé Community in France service - 7pm on Sunday 12 May.

Movie and Discussion Group

Come along to our new group. We will be watching 'The Chosen' series 1 episodes 1 – 8. Then we will dive into some study material to look at the series deeper. Every Wednesday night from 1 May to 19 June from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the lounge. To register please contact Merina Foster email: communityactivities.otumoetai@waiapu.com or phone 576 9923.

This Week Beginning: 29 April

Wednesday 10.00 am Mid-week Eucharist
 1.30 pm Golden Age
 7.00 pm "The Chosen" - movie & discussion group

Thursday 1.00 pm Books and Friends

Friday 9.00 am Senior Chef

Tuesday 8:00 am Silent Meditation

Weds – Sat 8.00 am Morning Prayer

Op Shop 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday to Friday

 10.00 am - 1.00 pm Saturday

Playgroup 9.30 - 11.30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Toy Library 9.30 - 11.30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 5 May –

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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