

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 7 December 2025

Liturgy: p.404 Advent 2: Peace (Rongo) Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

Greetings:

I have been asked a few times recently what's this *Blue Christmas* thing?

This short contemplative service recognises that there are some of us for whom Christmas is more than a season of never-ending joy and gladness. It recognises that some of us have memories of Christmas's past, where we might feel a sense of loss a little more keenly; loss of a loved one, lost opportunities, grief of any sort.

It is not merely a 'glum fest,' nor just a time for introspective navel gazing, but a time where we can bring to the front for a moment, in a quiet personal way, memories of those we have shared happier times with ... so that they are not forgotten ... indeed, they can be remembered joyfully for all the things they brought and shared, before we immerse ourselves amid squeals of delight and excitement among younger members who don't have to deal with the complexity of memory.

Come along and let the Word speak to your loss for a moment, immerse yourself in the loving arms of your heavenly Father, let 'Emmanuel' draw out the joy in your memories, before you lose yourself in yet another BBQ, or (in my case) before you succumb and fall asleep watching the cricket [Saturday 13 December 5pm].

Grace and peace, *Tony*

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 7 December 2025

Sentence:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent and believe in the good news.

Mark 1:15

Collect:

Almighty God, You sent Your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of Your Son; grant that those who proclaim Your Word may so guide our feet into the way of peace, that we may stand with confidence before Him when He comes in His glorious Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer. Amen.

OT Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10*

NT Reading *Romans 15:4-13*

Gospel *Matthew 3:1-12*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, the people of the East Coast Parish, and for all Messy Churches in Waiapu.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Hazel, Lynda, Lawrence, Vaughan, Kathy, Joanna, Reg.

Foodbank

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously to Foodbank during the year and to our special Christmas appeal. The Foodbank has supported 23,618 people over the last year, distributing 9,520 food packages. On average, this amounts to 770 households per month seeking food support.

Lavender Craft Morning Tea

The morning tea was attended by 35 people. Women's Fellowship raised \$185 and Lavender Craft \$800. Raffle winners were: Food Hamper- Lois Harvey; Christmas cake - Bronwyn Streat; Plant- Graham Toomer; Table Candle- Maree Gore.

St Peter's Nine Lessons and Carols

Nine Lessons and Carols with Scholars Baroque will be held at St Peter's Anglican Church, Mount Maunganui. All are welcome.
7:30pm 21st December.

St John's Anglican Church – Remembrance Tree of Light

Our Tree of Light symbolises hope even in the bleakest of times. Each light represents a loved one—family, friend, or colleague—who has died. The illuminated tree will be on display in the church from 1 December throughout the Christmas season, with the names of those remembered placed nearby. To add a name, please request a form from the parish office in person, by email, or by phone.

This Week Beginning: 8 December

Tuesday 12:00 pm Women's Fellowship Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 10:00 am Mid-week Communion

11:00 am Advent Study

2:00 pm SAYGO in the hall

3:15pm Matua Lifecare Communion

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

Service for Sunday 14 December -

9:30 am Holy Communion

Christmas Services at St John's

Saturday 13 December: 5.00 pm Blue Christmas
Sunday 14 December: 5.00 pm Lessons and Carols Service
Sunday 21 December: 4.00 pm Children's Carols
Christmas Eve: 8.00 pm Christmas Carols and Eucharist
Christmas Day: 9.30 am Christmas Eucharist

Contact Us

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