

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 21 December 2025

Liturgy: p.404 Advent 4: Love (Aroha) Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

Greetings:

Merry Christmas! This is our last newsletter until the office re-opens on Tuesday 13 January.

I pray that you all take time to rest and enjoy the presence of friends and family in this festive season, but also make time to enjoy the peace and love of our Lord in a quiet moment. I don't know about you, but this always seems easier to do in our summer than in a northern hemisphere winter.

Our usual Sunday service will continue at 9.30am through January, but I will not be in the office for these next couple of weeks. I will, however, still be contactable by cell phone to meet emergency needs.

Grace and peace,

Tony

A letter from the Bishop:

The Bishop of Waiapu, The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge, has announced that The Reverend Tony Kippax has accepted an appointment as Canon Precentor at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Auckland.

Tony and Christine, who joined the Parish of Otūmoetai in August 2023, will be greatly missed. We offer them our congratulations and prayers as they begin this new chapter of ministry in the Diocese of Auckland.

Tony will conclude his ministry in Otumoetai on Sunday 15 March 2026, with a liturgical farewell service and opportunity for hospitality. Until then, he will continue to lead the parish alongside the wardens, vestry, and ministry team. Planning for the future of parish leadership will take place in early 2026, with updates shared as they become available. A copy of the official announcement is available from the church office.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 21 December 2025

Sentence:

A virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1:23

Collect:

Living God, You called Your people out of Egypt and gave them the covenant; prepare our hearts to hear Your call, so that we may receive with joy the gospel of Your Son and be Your faithful people, now and for ever. Amen.

OT Reading *Isaiah 7: 10-16*

NT Reading *Romans 1: 1-7*

Gospel *Matthew 1: 18-25*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and for the people of the Havelock North parish and their clergy.

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

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.

Lavender Craft

Last chance this Sunday to purchase Lavender Craft gifts in time for Christmas - so please bring some coins with you.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will close at the end of this week (19 December) and will re-open on Tuesday 13 January.

Op Shop

Closing 1pm Tuesday 23 December, Reopening Monday 5 January

Christmas Services

Sunday 21 December:	9.30am	Holy Communion
	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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