

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 24th April 2022
2nd Sunday of Easter

Gluten free communion wafers are available.

If you require one, please speak to one of the clergy before the service.

Dear Friends

There are times when we find it hard to grasp the promise of Easter. Sometimes we see resurrection everywhere; sometimes we just see brokenness. The intensely human story of Thomas may help us.

Sunday's Gospel text implies that it was not a hotbed of faith to which Jesus came when he bypassed the locked door that expressed the disciples' fear. Only when he showed them his hands and side did the disciples rejoice at seeing him. Jesus then imparted the Holy Spirit to the disciples and gave them a commission. Yet they failed to convince their friend Thomas who wasn't with them on that occasion.

A week later, the doors were still firmly shut but Thomas was with them. Jesus invites Thomas to 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe'. Thomas apparently does neither but instead utters the most overt affirmation of Jesus in this gospel. You are, Thomas exclaims, 'my Lord and my God'. Thomas' confession is, in effect, I have seen God in the presence of Jesus; I have seen the word made flesh dwelling among us.

Jesus then conveys to others like Thomas in the Johannine community – and their descendants throughout history, including us – an important message about the resurrection. First, Jesus asks Thomas 'Have you believed because you have seen me?' Then he says 'Blessed

are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Just because Thomas had not seen Jesus did not mean that Jesus was not risen. When we are not aware of God's presence it does not mean that God is absent.

The disciples of Jesus will be recognised, Jesus says, by the love they have to give and by the freedom they achieve – freedom that will enable them to give their lives away in love to others. The life and love we encounter in one another, and in the human Jesus, is the life and love on display in the crucified one. His image bears the scars of the life he lived, the freedom he experienced and his ability always to give life and love even as his own life was being taken from him.

That is John's Christ. That is what Thomas eventually sees. The cross is the final sign in this gospel that points beyond itself to its ultimate meaning. The crucified one is the presence of God among us. He is the God who is the source of life, and his call to us is to live fully, to '...have life in his name'. To be Christian is not just to *believe* that message, but to *live* that message.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 24th APRIL 2022

Sentence

Jesus said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

John 20:27

Collect

**Alleluia, God Eternal;
locked doors or closed minds cannot bar you.
Let our questions and our doubts lead us to you.
Let us seek your truth, discern your will,
and trust your love.
For you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

1st Reading Acts 5.27-32

2nd Reading Revelation 1.4-8

Gospel John 20.19-31

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia and for the people of the Reporoa Co-operating Parish and their minister.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, Shirley.

FISH n CHIPS and GAMES

Looking for companionship and fun? Come along for lunch and an afternoon of games and chat. A chance to meet new people and have some fun. We'll organise the Fish and Chips and the Games.

1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons in each month at 12.00pm in the Church lounge, commencing Tuesday 3rd May
\$10 fee includes lunch and tea.

Please tell Lynda (576 9923) or Shelley (027 714 3534) you're coming.

BOOKS AND FRIENDS

a new book club is starting on the 5th May

Open to bookworms who would like to make new friends as well as enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and a shared plate.

1st Thursday of each month in the Church lounge: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Fee \$3.00 per month

Please tell Lynda (576 9923) or Shelley (027 714 3534) you're coming.

This Week Beginning: 25th April

Tuesday	7.00 pm	Vestry meeting (via Zoom)
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm Tuesday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)	
Playgroup	Closed for school holidays	
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	

Services for Sunday 1st May – Easter 3

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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