

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 15th May 2022
5th 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

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus announces his impending death to his disciples and offers comfort and instructions for how they should behave when he is gone. Jesus says, 'you will look for me', possibly to tell the disciples about new ways in which they will find him after his departure. New ways such as Peter discovered when he went to the Gentile household of Cornelius, the account of which is recorded in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Jesus emphasises how his followers are to behave when he is gone: 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another'.

These instructions form the basis of service in Christian life and community. In the time of the earliest Christians, pagan observers were impressed by the way Christians shunned social boundaries in caring for the sick and needy in times of trouble. Christians cared for one another, took collections to support their elders and orphaned children. They offered simple nursing care in epidemics and strong community in troubled times. Rodney Stark, an authority on the sociology of religion, says: 'To cities filled with the homeless and impoverished, Christianity offered charity and hope. To cities filled with newcomers and strangers, Christianity offered an immediate fellowship. To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family'.

How can we aid and comfort one another? Certainly, we can't take away all sorrows, old age, chronic pain, death. We are unlikely to alter the path of armies or the destruction of natural disasters. But we can bring a note of hope and faith amid pain and despair.

We can reach out to our neighbours. As a parish, we do this, among other ways, through our community activities: Op Shop, Playgroup, Toy Library, Senior Chef and our new Book Club and Fish n Chips and Games afternoons. As members of the parish, you can – and some of you do – support these initiatives. But there is scope for more people to help and be involved.

We can assure one another that we are each part of a living community, a community both within and without our church walls. Our faith community can be a witness to our neighbours of our spiritual commitment to love and to care for one another, to reach out to those whom we may serve, in ways great and small.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 15th MAY 2022

Sentence

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

John 4:16b

Collect

**Alleluia, God Eternal;
love marks your presence.
Plant in us your love,
nurture in us your likeness,
and let us reflect your glory.
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 11.1-18

2nd Reading

Revelation 21.1-6

Gospel

John 13.31-35

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the work of AAW in Polynesian and Papua New Guinea and for the people of the Taradale parish and their clergy.

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

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Stars**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **4th July 2022**. Remember that, to keep readers' attention, your articles should not be too long (*up to around 700 words*).

This Week Beginning: 16th May

Tuesday	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips & Games in the lounge
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	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 22nd May – Easter 6

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

Vicar:	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
Ph:	576 9923 or Vicarage 570 0424 or 021 432 365	
Email:	sue.beverly@waiapu.com	
Parish Office:	Lynda Wallace	
Ph:	576 9923	
Email:	admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com	
Website:	www.stjohns-tga.org.nz	
Wardens:	Bill Aldridge	021 982 984
	Roger Clark	027 683 8466