

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 17 May 2026

Liturgy: p476

Easter 7

Psalm 47

Greetings:

On Thursday we remembered the Jesus's Ascension. The timing is based entirely on the Book of Acts. The Ascension is sometimes described as the risen Jesus ascending to be with the Father, leaving us to carry on the work of God in the Spirit. We become Jesus' hands and feet.

The Ascension can also be seen as the completion of the Incarnation. In Jesus the Eternal Word of God came among us in a particular time and place. The Ascension describes Christ's transition from this time and place into God's presence, which is everywhere and eternal. Rather than being absent, the Ascended Christ is now available to all people at all times. This is the "good news": he remains with us as he continues his work.

In our gospel reading we hear Jesus final prayer before the arrest and crucifixion – but with his terrified disciples present and listening. This final prayer is for them and for all future disciples, including us. This final prayer reveals Jesus' trust in God's care for his followers. He calls us to be "glorified"—to make the presence of God visible, to be the ongoing embodiment of God's love living God's hope and dream. We don't do this alone; we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Key Reflection for Our Community: How are we making God's love visible today? What does it truly mean for us to live as a community entrusted to God's care?

John Hebert PSSF.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 17 May 2026

Sentence:

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17:3

Collect:

**Christ our great high priest,
you understand our weakness;
you pray for us while we are sinners.
Help us, through you,
to find a new and living way to God;
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen**

OT Reading *Acts 1:1-14*

NT Reading *Ephesians 1: 15-23*

Gospel *John 17.1-11*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of our Dioceses and Hui Amorangi, and for the RSA Mount Maunganui, the RNZAF and the Training Ship Chatham Sea Cadets Chaplain in Tauranga.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Lawrence, Lynda, Reg, Jon, Angela R.

Vestry Minutes

A reminder that a copy of the minutes from Vestry meetings can be found in the church foyer, feel free to read them.

Senior Chef

Don't forget that our church offers the *Senior Chef* cooking and nutrition programme, open to everyone over 60 **including** parishioners. You don't need to be a beginner; the real highlight is the friendship and fun shared each week. Next course starts June 12th.

Safeguarding Training - Tauranga, 6 June 2026

Penny Hales, Safeguarding & Risk Manager has scheduled a Safeguarding training session at Holy Trinity, Tauranga on 6 June starting at 9am. If you would like to attend, please contact Erica for a registration form.

Oasis – Volunteers Needed

Do you have a few hours a week? Oasis Op Shop is looking for volunteers for various roles. If you can help, come into the store or phone (07) 576-2422.

This Week Beginning: 18 May

Monday 10.00 am Lavender Craft
Wednesday 10.00 am Mid-week Communion
2.00 pm SAYGo in the hall
7.00 pm Vestry Meeting (*may be postponed until Thursday*)
Sunday 9.30 am Holy Communion

Op Shop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
10:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday
Playgroup 9:30am – 11:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library 9:30am – 11:30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Contact Us

Priest in charge: The Reverend John Hebenton tssf
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