

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

## **St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai**



**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**The Feast of Pentecost**

*Dear Friends*

Why do we consider Pentecost the birthday of the church? It has to do with identity. In the Pentecost narrative in Acts, the symbols of wind, fire and language are used concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church. Notice I didn't say the coming of the Holy Spirit to the world - the Holy Spirit has been in the world from the beginning. Breath and wind (the same word in Hebrew) are important in the creation stories with a mighty wind sweeping over the waters - also translated the Spirit of God hovering over the waters - a bird-like picture of the Spirit. In the second story of creation "God formed human from the dust of the ground and breathed into human's nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being." The breath of God is life-giving. Throughout the Old Testament there are prophets and kings and others filled with the Spirit of God. Jesus is described as filled with the Spirit.

Both wind and fire are sources of power and energy. Weather events in recent years have made us very aware of the power of the wind which can be very destructive but across the world people are building windmills to turn the energy of the wind into something productive.

A flame can bring warmth - the warmth of a fire to warm a house, the warmth to cook our food, but as well as a source of energy a flame is a source of light - earlier in John's gospel Jesus speaks of the Spirit of Truth who would come to "guide us into all truth". Peter - energised, guided and enlightened by the Spirit was able to explain what was happening through the lens of the prophet Joel.

The final symbol we see in the Acts account is language. Language is about communication and community and in this Pentecost event it was also about mission - about spreading the good news beyond their language group - reaching out to others to speak of God in their heart language. God's Spirit speaks to us in the language of our hearts and enables and inspires us as missional people to speak to others in their heart language.

It was with the coming of the Spirit that we the church began to understand our identity. In John's gospel the coming of the Spirit is far less dramatic - there is no fire or other languages. Jesus breathes on them and the focus is on peace and forgiveness. In this short reading Peace is mentioned twice. The breath of God is to enable them to participate in the life and mission of God - bringing peace and forgiveness to the world.

It's our birthday today and we remember and celebrate that we are a community birthed by the Spirit. We are given life and energy to be a community of peace, love, connection, forgiveness and mission - a mission to grow, welcome and include others. Our mission is to spread the good news of Peace and forgiveness, spreading the joy of Pentecost.

Arohanui, *Sue +*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **Sentence**

'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,' says the Lord; 'and let the one who believes in me drink. For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.'

*John 7:38*

### **Collect**

**Holy Spirit of God, blowing through creation:**

**No door can keep you out.**

**Unlock our hearts, breathe on us anew;**

**that we may speak God's words of life.**

**With the Father and the Son, you live and reign,  
one God, now and forever. Amen**

**1st Reading**                      *Acts 2.1-21*

**2nd Reading**                      *1 Corinthians 12.3b-13*

**Gospel**                                *John 20.19-23*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the Bricks for Life programme in Northern Ethiopia and for the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: John, Lou, Isabel, Sheryll, Taylor.

### **SPECIAL EUCHARIST**

You are invited to join us for a special Eucharist celebrating Corpus Christi on Thursday 8 June at 8.00 am.

### **TOY LIBRARY FUNDRAISING BBQ**

Our Toy Library will be running a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings on Sunday 4 June – if you are in the vicinity, please do drop in to support them.

### **Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE**

The theme for the next edition will be “**Helping Hands**” (social service, helping others, charities and charitable acts). Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **26<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

## **This Week Beginning: 29<sup>th</sup> May**

<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
<b>Thursday</b>	1.00 pm	Books and Friends
<b>Friday</b>	9.00 am	Senior Chef
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
<b>Playgroup</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
<b>Toy Library</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

## **Services for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June –**

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

## **Contact Us**

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