

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 5 April 2026

Easter Day

Liturgy: p456

Greetings

It is a privilege to join you this Easter, we are invited to join Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the tomb. They had suffered the trauma of holy week. Jerusalem had become increasingly more hostile with their growing fear and anxiety all mixed with hope. They had been there at the arrest, heard about the trial, and witnessed the horror of the crucifixion as the earth shook and the sky darkened. They were traumatised. They came to the tomb to mourn in their shock and grief. This is a place to take the ache of trauma.

We are invited to join them in all we have gone and are going through over the last few years. Covid, climate change disasters here and overseas with floods and cyclones, and the deadly slips on Mauao and Pāpāmoa Hills. War in Ukraine, the Middle East and all the ripples here as we wonder what is next. And our personal stories of loss, fear, and sorrow. It is a lot. And so, we are invited to bring our trauma and grief and join Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the tomb. And we pray that like them we will learn that crucifixion and death is not the end. We are told, “but wait, there is more!”

In “Love Wins” Rob Bell says that for the Prophets and Jesus heaven was not just another place we go to after we die, but the hope of what this world will be like in next age, when God’s will is completely done on earth as in heaven. Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and earth shattering event that defeats death and all that crushes life. It is about hope and life for us all. In all the resurrection stories

the risen Jesus meets his grieving disciples in all their mix of emotions, starting with Mary and the other women. Their world literally rocks, and they are filled with joy, expectation, and fear. Jesus is risen and so are they. Their world and their lives are changed. They live resurrection.

We join the Mary's at the tomb, with all our mix of emotions. We too are invited to have our world shook up and destabilised. We are invited into the ongoing story to live resurrection lives. How have we met the risen Christ? How might we live resurrection?

John Hebert PSSF.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 5 April 2026

Sentence:

"I have seen the Lord"

Collect:

Glorious Lord of Life, we praise You, that by the mighty resurrection of Your Son, You have delivered us from sin and death and made Your whole creation new. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead, may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.

NT Reading *Acts 10: 34-43*

Gospel *Matthew 28: 1-10*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the people of the Pacific who are affected by natural disasters, rising sea levels and unpredictable weather. We also pray for the people of the Waiapu Anglican Cathedral Parish of St John and their clergy, and for Religious Orders: Community of the Sacred Name, Christchurch; Order of the Holy Cross; Sisters of the Love of God, Sr. Anne

and Kaitiaki Maranú Gascoigne TSSF at St Isaacs; Third Order, Society of St Francis (TSSF).

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

Parish AGM – Sunday 19 April

Our AGM will be held in church on Sunday 19 April. We will celebrate our life together as a parish in 2025 and look forward to the future. ***In preparation for the AGM nominations for Vestry are sought – nomination forms are available in the foyer.*** Ideally, we would like more Vestry members than we had in 2025 so that we can ensure we have a quorum for all meetings.

Hydrangeas?

We are looking for hydrangea cuttings to plant at the back of the church. If you have any to spare, please contact Liss: 021 160 5697

This Week Beginning: 6 April

Wednesday	10.00 am	Service of the Word
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
	3.15 pm	Communion at Radius Matua
Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Op Shop	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Tuesday to Friday
	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9:30 – 11:30 am	Closed for school holiday
Toy Library	9:30 – 11:30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Contact Us

Priest in charge: The Reverend John Hebenton tssf
Email: john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Ph: 07 576 9923 or 021 679 202

Parish Office: Erica Orrick Ph: 07 576 9923
Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm Tuesday - Friday
Email: admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com
Website: www.stjohns-tga.org.nz

Administrator: Lynda Wallace Ph: 027 780 3653
Email: admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com

Wardens: Roger Clark 027 683 8466
Angela Stensness 021 040 6748