

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 28 January 2024

Epiphany 4

Greetings:

On Thursday of this week, we celebrated the **Conversion of St Paul**. We took a break from our journey through Genesis for a moment, to read about Ezekiel's isolation and silencing which, in some ways resembles the experience of Saul on the road to Damascus when he became Paul. But I recall the image of what happens in Acts 7, when Stephen is being stoned at the Jewish Council's behest, with Saul's approval. Cloaks are piled up at Saul's feet and he sees Stephen being "filled with the Holy Spirit." He is present at the revelation to Stephen of "the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." Whether or not he experienced those things for himself, when you are in the presence of the holy, you cannot fail to be affected yourself. I wonder what part that experience played in his own conversion of the road to Damascus.

This week Vestry started thinking about the **AGM and Vestry 2024**. We will be seeking a new People's Warden this time and there are always spaces on Vestry for those who feel a call in this direction. If everybody shares a little of the load from time to time, then nobody suffers unduly from carrying a larger part of the burden for a while. In addition, I believe that men and women share equal responsibilities in the eyes of the Lord, so our Vestry should reflect approximately equal numbers of men and women (it's pretty close at the moment). If you

would like to know more, please get in touch with either me or the current Wardens (Bill or Roger), or another Vestry Member.

Grace and peace, *Tony*

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 28th January 2024

Sentence

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. *Matthew 9:35*

Collect

Jesus, You spoke with passion, You acted without fear, and we remember. Help us when we have to speak out, to speak the truth and without malice to speak. Hear this prayer for Your Name's sake. Amen.

OT Reading *Deuteronomy 18: 15-20*

NT Reading *1 Corinthians 8: 1-13*

Gospel *Mark 1: 21-28*

Prayers of the People

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

We pray for those in need, especially those who ask for our prayers: Craig, Reece, James.

Taizé at St Georges

You are invited to join St Georges, Gate Pa for their first Taizé service of the year at 7pm on Sunday 11 February.

This Week Beginning: 29 January

Wednesday	2.00 pm	SAYGo
Thursday	1.00 pm	Books and Friends
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
Tues - Sat	8:00 am	Silent Meditation
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Tuesday to Friday
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Service for Sunday 4 February –

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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