

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 10 March 2024

Lent 4/Mothering Sunday/Parish AGM

Greetings:

We have a single service today and after it the Parish AGM so as to give the maximum number of people the opportunity to both worship and participate in the business of God's work in this community. It's our one opportunity in the year to do both things on one day!

I pray that we take it and use it for the purpose and glory of God.

Our gospel reading today includes perhaps the best known of all verses of Scripture; *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son ..."* (Jn 3:16). I was reminded this week that we mustn't take even this wonderful verse out of its context. If v. 16 *"serves as a statement of fact involving the agency (Jesus, the Son) God used to bring salvation to the world"*, then v. 17 *"expands on God's intention and clearly identifies God's purpose in sending His Son"* and v. 18 *"provides a pointed reality statement concerning the present nature of judgment ... Only when the three verses are allowed to hang together does the reader begin to grasp the full meaning of the coming of Jesus."* Take another look at these verses.

In this season of Lent, there is a strong temptation to leap over the journey towards the cross and get straight into the promise and the hope of the resurrection on Easter Day ... resist that temptation. The pain and grief that Jesus suffers on our behalf make the Lenten journey all the more worthwhile; *"one does not truly enter the process of salvation*

unless one recognises the incalculable cost and accepts the implications of that cost in one's life."

[Gracious thanks to Gerald L. Borchert for his thoughts in the New American Commentary.]

Grace and peace, *Tony*

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 10 March 2024

Sentence

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

John 3:14-15

Collect

Most merciful God, by the passion of Your Son Jesus Christ You delivered us from the power of darkness; grant that through faith in Him who suffered on the cross we may be found acceptable in Your sight, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

OT Reading

Numbers 21: 4-9

NT Reading

Ephesians 2: 1-10

Gospel

John 3: 14-21

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for those who are still affected by Cyclone Gabrielle through loss of homes and livelihoods, and we pray for the people of the Papamoa East Anglican Mission and Beachhaven Projects and their clergy.

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

Golden Age

We are looking for 1 or 2 people to help with setting up the tables before our Golden Age event for the resthomes which is held on the first Wednesday of each month. If you are able to help please contact our Community Activities Coordinator, Merina Foster on 576 9923 or 022 371 7219.

This Week Beginning: 11 March

Tuesday	7.00 pm	AAW meeting
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	11.00 am	Lenten Study
	3.00 pm	Service at Radius Matua
	7.00 pm	Lenten Study
Tuesday	8:00 am	Silent Meditation
Weds – Sat	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday 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	

Services for Sunday 17 March –

8.30 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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