

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

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



**Sunday 29 March 2026**

*Liturgy: p404*

*Lent 6/Palm Sunday*

*Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29*

### *Greetings*

This week like every Palm Sunday we are invited to journey with Jesus down the Kidron Valley from Bethany into the temple joining the ambivalent crowds who have come to Jerusalem for Passover, and on through the maze of streets and events until we reach Golgotha and the cross. We are invited to notice how we respond as we enter this week and how this story helps us see our world differently and to live compassionately.

It begins with a small crowd from the country waving branches welcoming their “king” who rides a donkey into the city. They cry Hosanna!! Each Sunday we join them crying Hosanna as we gather around the eucharistic table. Hosanna is both our plea for God to save, and a shout of praise and exaltation. As we join that procession what is it we long to be saved from? And for what do we give thanks and praise?

This king is unlike most other kings. Pilate and Herod Antipas enter on war horses surrounded by cavalry and infantry and symbols of brutal power. Jesus rides a donkey in a peace parade, timed for Passover, the ancient festival celebrating God's act of bringing Israel out of slavery from a foreign empire. Outside the city the crowd respond singing the Passover psalms proclaiming God's liberation. Jesus has come to redefine royal power – found not in violent grandeur but on a cross, bringing God's healing and compassion to all. With so much ongoing war in our world today how hard is it to join this way of peace?

Jesus comes in humility. But as his small group enter the city with its crush they are met with confusion and scorn. How do we respond to Jesus' way of peace this Holy Week and Easter?

John Hebert PSSF.

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 29 March 2026**

### **Sentence:**

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:10-11*

### **Collect:**

**Jesus, when You rode into Jerusalem the people waved palms with shouts of acclamation. Grant that when the shouting dies, we may still walk beside You even to a cross; for the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

**Gospel** *Matthew 21: 1-11*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the global Anglican Alliance team, and for Mission to Seafarers Port of Tauranga Ship Visitors and volunteers.

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

### **Organ Fund**

As at 23 March donations to the organ fund totalled \$14,400. These funds will cover the cost of purchasing the organ and assist with installation costs. Many thanks to those who have donated.

### **St George's Taizé Service - Sunday 29 March 7pm**

Join the people of St George's for a contemplative service based on the music of the Taizé Community.

### 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.***

### Thank you – A Letter from Tauranga Food Bank

*Kia Ora,*

*I would like to take a moment to share our gratitude to your congregation for the generosity they show to our community. The grocery donations given are wonderful and make such a difference to others.*

*If anyone has an interest in learning more about how we share these donations or wish to visit us here at Foodbank they would be most welcome.*

*I would also like to update you on a service called "Here to Help U". This is a wonderful local service which can help people connect with local community resources such as food, youth services, mental health, finances, employment, health, education, and general support. It is free, friendly, and no judgement.*

*People can connect with them by calling 0200 568 273 or go online [www.heretohelpu.nz](http://www.heretohelpu.nz).*

*Ngā mihi nui,*

***Nicki Goodwin, Foodbank Manager***

### 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

### Help Prior to Easter Sunday

We will be putting up the green cross on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> - please let Erica know if you can help. If you have any spare flowers, please bring them on Sunday morning to place on the cross.

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our church running and looking beautiful. To our wonderful gardeners who maintain the grounds and keep everything looking tidy, and to those who quietly do extra cleaning and maintenance inside and out — we are so grateful. Your care and effort make such a difference to our church.

### **This Week Beginning: 30 March**

<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am Mid-week Communion 11.00 am Lenten Study 2.00 pm SAYGo in the hall
<b>Thursday</b>	12.30 pm Books and Friends at Kunul Cafe 7.00 pm Maundy Thursday service
<b>Friday</b>	9.30 am Good Friday Vigil
<b>Saturday</b>	7.00 pm Service of Light and Word with Eucharist
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30 am Easter Sunday Service

Op Shop	10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday 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

### Contact Us

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