

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 19th June 2022
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

The man we encounter in Luke's gospel is not introduced with a name or a family bloodline, but by the way he is living. This man has been naked, living not in a house but in a graveyard, among the tombs. At times, those in the community have shackled him to keep him away and to keep themselves safe. Despite this identity, despite his torment, the man still comes to meet Jesus. Perhaps this is the first thing we *really* know about his identity – not about the chains which keep him bound or the demons who possess him – but about *him*.

Jesus asks his name and he answers 'Legion'. This name is not his, but that of the demons inside him. When Jesus arrives in the place of the dead, everything changes: 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.' Even with the many voices in his head, the man recognises Jesus, he recognises new life. No longer is he Legion, he is seen and known as a beloved child of God. Once Jesus sees and knows him, healing follows. The man comes to his right mind, puts on clothes and wants to follow Jesus.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all spend time in tombs – the tombs of anger, prejudice, loneliness, loss, despair, mourning. When we have made peace with living in the tombs, when we have been chained down and held back, when Jesus points us to a new way, we can find it rather unnerving. It can be all too easy to become accustomed to the demons that torment us. These can be our own personal difficulties but also our judgement, criticism and prejudices against others: racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, harsh

judgements on anyone who is different. The list is legion. It is not God's way that we dwell in such places. God imbued us with dignity and worth and purpose and calls us to discover the same in others.

There are many things we cannot change in our own lives and in the lives of others. The key point is how we approach difficulties and difference, how we adjust and accept the way things are. When we make peace and overcome attitudes that deny life to others in our church and in our society, then we can embrace the healing, hope and wholeness Jesus offers. Here are a few lines from Sunday's first hymn:

We are many, we are one, and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community...

All division is made whole, when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me...

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 19th June 2022

Sentence

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by
the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

Collect

**God of liberation,
you free us from the chains that bind us;
may you re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
and send us to share your love
with those around us;
through Jesus Christ our Liberator,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

1st Reading *Isaiah 65.1-9*

2nd Reading *Galatians 3.23-29*

Gospel *Luke 8.26-39*

Prayers of the People

We pray for the Anglican Indigenous Network and for the people of the Greater Hastings Parish and their clergy.

We pray for those in need especially those who ask for our prayers: Colin, Shirley.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Stars**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **4th July 2022**. Remember that, to keep readers' attention, your articles should not be too long (*up to around 700 words*).

LAY MINISTRY LICENCES

At the Vicar's request and with Vestry's support, the Bishop has granted Lay Ministry Licences to Angela Stensness and Tim Cross for the leading of worship in the absence of a priest and for preaching. For Angela this is in addition to her licence for Children & Families ministry. Most of you will have heard Angela preach already. Tim has solid experience of preaching in the Anglican tradition in his previous parish. It is good to welcome them to the ministry team: the purpose is to ensure greater variety and resilience.

This Week Beginning: 20th June

Tuesday	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips and Games
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 26th June – OT 13

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

Vicar:	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
Ph:	576 9923 or Vicarage 570 0424 or 021 432 365	
Email:	sue.beverly@waiapu.com	
Parish Office:	Lynda Wallace	
Ph:	576 9923	
Email:	admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com	
Website:	www.stjohns-tga.org.nz	
Wardens:	Bill Aldridge	021 982 984
	Roger Clark	027 683 8466