

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 5 July 2026

Liturgy: p476 Ordinary Time 14 Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Greetings all:

Angela is preaching this Sunday. But I think the theme is **discernment** - how we make choices that align with God's vision for a restored world. In **Genesis** Rebekah actively chooses generous hospitality by watering both a stranger and his camels. When invited to leave her homeland to marry a man she has never met, she boldly chooses a new life.

In **Romans** Paul continues his discussion around Torah. He says it is given to allow God's people to be righteous - faithful to the ever present and eternally faithful (righteous) God working to redeem humanity and restore creation. He examines our inner, warring motivations and how we have turned Torah into a tool for self-righteousness, exclusion, and measuring personal worth, ultimately losing God, and forgetting God's covenant. All this prevents us from choosing to embrace a different life.

And in **Matthew's Gospel** Jesus offers a hash critique of those who oppose both John and him – the self-important, "worldly-wise" leaders who protect the status quo. He compares them to immature children unable to see God's work. Conversely, Jesus reveals a new, inclusive kingdom of the silenced and invisible held up as blessed in the Beatitudes, who—like Rebekah—have the courage to say yes.

They all invite us to examine what truly motivates our decision-making:

- Are we making choices to **protect the world as it currently is** and preserve our own comfortable place within it?
- Or do we have the courage to **glimpse a different world** and actively join God's work to bring it into being?

John Hebert PSSF.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 5 July 2026

Sentence:

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,’ says the Lord. ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.’

Matthew 11:28–29

Collect:

Holy and eternal God, give us such trust in your sure purpose, that we measure our lives not by what we have done or failed to do, but by our faithfulness to you. Hear this prayer for your love’s sake. Amen.

OT Reading *Genesis 24:34-38,42-49, 58-67*

NT Reading *Romans 7:15-25a*

Gospel *Matthew 11:16-19,25-30*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for those swept over by natural disasters, and for those who extend their hands to pick them back up, and we pray for the people of the Waiapu Anglican Cathedral Parish of St John the Evangelist and their clergy.

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

Women Seafarers Annual Drive

Prior to our Sea Sunday service on July 19th, please consider donating toiletries and other items that the women seafarers would appreciate.

Soup and Rolls Tuesday July 14th

St John’s Women’s Fellowship Annual Soup and Rolls lunch with entertainment provided by the St John’s Singers. \$15 entry and raffles - \$2 each of 3 for \$5. A signup sheet is in the back of the church.

Office Closed

Erica will be on leave from Friday 26th June and returning on Tuesday 14th July. Calls and emails can still be made to the office as the messages will be picked up by Lynda.

Choral Evensong

All Parishioners are invited to attend the liturgy of Choral Evensong at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Mount Maunganui on the first Sunday of every month at 4.00pm. July: A 21st century Evensong - Modern composers: Works by Rutter, Archer & others.

This Week Beginning: 6^h July

Wednesday 10:00 am Mid-week Communion
 2:00 pm SAYGo in the hall

Friday 9:30 am Senior Chef

Sunday 9:30 am Holy Communion

Op Shop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday
 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday

Playgroup 9:30am – 11:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Toy Library 9:30am – 11:30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Contact Us

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