

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

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



**Sunday 12 July 2026**

*Liturgy: p404*

*Ordinary Time 15 Psalm 119:105-112*

### *Greetings all:*

**Mānawatia a Matariki** –celebrating Matariki! This gift from Te Ao Māori invites us to **remember those who have died, celebrate the present** and our shared history, **and plan for the future** with whānau and friends over kai (food), waiata (song), and tākaro (games).

**Sowing Seeds of Hope** - The Matariki themes of reaping and sowing beautifully mirror the parable of the extravagant and wasteful farmer in Matthew 13, who outrageously scatters the seeds of life across all types of soil. This story offers profound hope to a struggling church, asking us to reflect on what kind of soil we are and how we might cultivate our hearts and our world to receive these life-giving seeds.

**Grace in Our Humanity** - At times we are good soil; at other times, we are shallow, or even deceitful and conniving like Rebekah's whānau in Genesis. That is simply what it means to be human. Yet, despite our flawed messiness, God remains relentlessly at work in every single kind of soil, transforming us and cultivating new growth.

"The calling of the community of faith is to have two good ears, and to be constantly open to having our worn down places ploughed up, turned over, loosened up; to having our rocky places named and removed, and our shallowness deepened and enriched; to having our thickets of cares and anxieties plucked out and space clear for new growth. Who knows, maybe instead of eking out the bare minimum to stay alive, we might be showered with God's extravagant wastefulness."  
(David Ewart, [www.holytextures.com](http://www.holytextures.com))

*John Hebert TSSF.*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 13 July 2026**

### **Sentence:**

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.

*John 6:63, 68*

### **Collect:**

Praise to you, God,  
for all your work among us.  
Yours is the vigour in creation,  
yours is the impulse in our new discoveries.  
Make us adventurous, yet reverent and hopeful  
in all we do.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**OT Reading**     *Genesis 25: 19-34*

**NT Reading**     *Romans 8:1-11*

**Gospel**             *Matthew 13:1-9,18-23*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for volunteers and supporters of Anglican Missions and for the Te Puke Parish and their clergy.

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

### **Women Seafarers Annual Drive**

Prior to our Sea Sunday service on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Office Closed**

Erica will be returning on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Calls and emails can still be made to the office as the messages will be picked up by Lynda.

### **This Week Beginning: 13<sup>th</sup> July**

**Tuesday**      11:30 am Soup & Rolls luncheon  
                    3:15 pm Communion at Radius Matua

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

**Sunday**          9:30 am Service of the Word

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

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

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

### **Contact Us**

**Priest in charge:** The Reverend John Hebenton tssf  
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**Ph:** 07 576 9923 or 021 679 202

**Parish Office:** Erica Orrick      Ph: 07 576 9923  
**Hours:** 8:30am – 1:30pm Tuesday - Friday  
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