

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

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



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Dear Friends*

Are you a Mary or a Martha? It's a deceptive question that might lead to you give an answer that does not sit well with who you really are. Martha, it is often said, is the 'active' one, busying herself with the demanding practicalities of life. Mary, on the other hand, is the 'contemplative' one, resting attentively at Jesus' feet. Often this story has been interpreted to prioritise the contemplative life over the active life. The 'better' life was said to be the life of prayer and contemplation, the quiet life more perfect than the active. But the story does not necessarily affirm the contemplative over the active life.

In English we hear that Mary has chosen 'the better part'; however, in Greek the word is translated as 'good'. Mary has chosen the 'good' part, meaning she has chosen the connection to God who is good, the ground and energy of effective action. This interpretation calls us to recognise that God is both inside and outside – sustaining us while calling us to work and, through our service, to bring about a world of justice, mercy and peace. It is not an either/or message but a both/and message.

To ask ourselves which one am I? is a trick question. Martha or Mary? Busy or mindful? Striving or tranquil? It is a false choice. False, quite simply because it is not the choice that Jesus, by way of this text, asks us to make. Jesus is not pitting the sisters against one another, nor is he creating a hierarchy of modes of discipleship.

Jesus is not challenging Martha's personality, nor is he even rejecting Martha's present busyness, but is instead gently calling her back to the fullness of herself, reminding her of the ground of her being and the purposeful end, of all this good, and necessary work: namely, himself.

Martha lives and serves, as we all do, in the name of Jesus. The tending of small, daily things all hold the possibility of divine inbreaking but only when they are done in mindfulness of God's ever-present love. That mindfulness is what we must develop as disciples. Jesus simply wants Martha not to lose sight of him, knowing, as he does, how easy it is to become 'worried and distracted by many things'.

Jesus is not drawing a distinction between the relative virtues of *being* and *doing*, but instead the continuous and crucial choice that each of us must make – in all that we do – between remembering Jesus or forgetting him. This is a Gospel story in which Martha is asked – as we all are – to do *everything* in remembrance of him.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

### **Sentence**

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.

*Isaiah 30:16*

### **Collect**

**God our home, in Christ you are always with us;  
in all our daily activities  
help us not to be so worried and distracted by many things  
that we forget the one thing we need,  
and lose the better part, which will be ours forever;  
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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      *Genesis 18.1-10a*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      *Colossians 1.15-28*

**Gospel**                                *Luke 10.38-42*

**Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the Diocese of Polynesia and for the people of the Puketapu Parish and their clergy.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Janice H, Joan, Colin, Shirley.

**SENIOR CHEF** *Cooking and nutrition classes for over 60s*

Senior Chef is an 8-week cooking class where you can learn, or improve on, your practical food and nutrition skills. It's a social, informative hands-on class, all focussed on cooking for one or two people. It's FUN and it's FREE!! Fridays 5<sup>th</sup> August to 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 9.00am – 12.00pm. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

**SEA SUNDAY**

Last Sunday was designated as 'Sea Sunday' by *The Mission to Seafarers*. Although we have celebrated Sea Sunday in the past, this year we followed the lectionary readings for the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. But let us not forget those who live, work and play on the sea. More than 90% of the world's goods and fuels are transported around the world, thanks to seafarers. They are on call day and night 365 days per year. We give thanks for their dedication and pray for their safety.

Creator God,  
you have made the sea beautiful and fearful;  
be with all who sail on it for work or pleasure  
and give them safe passage with Christ the voyager,  
who calmed the storm and strengthened his disciples' faith.  
Amen

## **This Week Beginning: 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**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 Closed for school holidays

**Toy Library** 9.30 - 11.30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

## **Services for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July –**

### **OT 18**

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

## **Contact Us**

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