

Welcome! Haere mai!

## St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



**Sunday 18 July 2020**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Dear Friends*

Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow him? Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus stepped ashore from a boat and 'saw a great crowd...he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd'. Mark answers the question 'who was Jesus?' thus: Jesus was someone around whom people gathered. He taught, he had compassion for people because they lacked leadership, he healed people, even when they touched the fringes of his garment.

Mark invites us to consider our place in the story in a surprising way. In today's passage we find several uses of the word 'they.' *They* gathered around Jesus. *They* got out of the boat. *They* laid the sick on mats and brought them to wherever *they* heard he was. Who are 'they'? Could it be that 'they' are in fact 'we'? The Gospel texts are active reminders of the story of Jesus in *our* midst. As we travel with the disciples, we, like them, are called to be Christ to those whom we encounter. That is the deep challenge of the Gospel.

The Gospels are more than letters on papyrus, more than ink written on a page, more than fingers moving over a keyboard. The Gospel is written on our hearts in ways that challenge us and inspire us daily. In other words, we need to allow ourselves to be open to the tasks of discipleship that we are commissioned to undertake. Christianity is a physical religion. We speak about Christ as God incarnate, God made flesh. And the Bible tells us that we are made in the image of God. We *embody* God, just as Jesus did – awesome, don't you think?

On reading scripture, we perceive the character of God by *what we see Jesus doing*. On observing our behaviour people perceive the character of God by what they see Christians *doing*.

On our Parish website we have the words 'Our community is our heart'. This expresses our calling to serve our local community in whatever way we can. Many members of the parish do this as individuals through involvement with non-parish organisations and charities. *As a Parish*, we do this through our community activities including the Op Shop, Playgroup, the Toy Library and Golden Age and we are actively planning to expand what we offer both to the parents of our Playgroup and for older adults. None of what we do could happen without the involvement of members of the Parish.

To other people, God isn't who we *say* God is – God is who we *show* God is. There's a 1960s hymn which begins 'We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord'. It also says 'they'll know we are Christians by our love'. It does not say 'they'll know we are Christians by our creeds'. Love is something we embody. Love is something we show by who we are and what we do.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

### **Sentence**

As he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. *Mark 6:34*

### **Collect**

**God of creation, you are revealed in the morning song  
of Tui, Bellbird and Magpie,  
and in the golden evening waves  
reflecting the setting sun.  
You surround us daily.**

**Open our eyes to delight in your presence,  
and activate our hands into caring  
as you do for all you have made,  
that your kingdom may come and your will be done.  
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**                      *Jeremiah 23.1-6*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      *Ephesians 2.11-22*

**Gospel**                                *Mark 6.30-34,53-56*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the Mission to Seafarers and for the people of the Waipaoa parish and their clergy.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Bridget, Mike.

### **LAVENDER CRAFT GROUP**

Lavender Craft Group will resume meeting next month.

### **TAIZÉ SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE'S**

You are invited to a Taizé Service of Song, Prayer and Contemplation – at St. George's Church, Gate Pā, Sunday 25 July at 7.00 pm.

### **APPOINTMENT OF ARCHDEACONS IN THE DIOCESE**

Bishop Andrew has announced that to replace the three Regions of the Diocese, there will now be five Archdeaconries. The Archdeacons he has appointed will be members of the Episcopal Ministry Team which supports the Bishop in his leadership of the Diocese. Our Parish sits in the Archdeaconry of Tauranga Moana with The Venerable John Heberton (Vicar of Gata Pā) as Archdeacon. A copy of the announcement is on the noticeboard.

## **This Week Beginning: 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Monday** 9.00 am Walking Group

**Wednesday** 10.00 am Mid-week Eucharist  
2.00 pm SAYGo in the Hall  
4.00 pm Music Group practice

**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 25<sup>th</sup> July – James & John, Apostles**

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

4.00 pm Messy Church

### **Contact Us**

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