

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 31st July 2022
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

The gospel reading challenges us. Jesus' parable was a response to a man who asked him to sort out an inheritance problem which pitted two brothers against each other. Jesus recognised immediately that underlying the request for a division of a family inheritance was sheer greed. He warned the crowd against thinking that life consists of accumulating possessions. His parable also recognises the potential of the man's situation to engender loneliness.

In the culture of the day, no one would decide to build large storage barns without hours of discussion with family, friends and neighbours. But this man 'thought to himself' about what to do. That tells us he was cut off from other people, entirely self-sufficient and isolated. In the creation story God says 'It is not good for man to be alone' yet, by his wilful independence, this man was isolating himself. His headstrong pursuit of self-sufficiency was essentially God-denying and God-defying as he planned to eat, drink and be merry for many years rather than recognise that his life and death were in God's hands.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray 'give us this day your daily bread'. This man was not prepared to trust God for his daily bread, but planned to make himself impregnable by building storage barns and keeping everything for himself. Tellingly, Jesus follows his condemnation of the man's plans to build larger barns to store his food with praise for birds who do not have barns but trust God to feed them daily.

That sort of trust in God leads disciples to a way of life that does not attempt to secure the future solely through reliance on amassed possessions. Possessions gratefully received and stewarded need not stand in the way of our relationship with God, or with other people, but there is always that danger. Having resources is not wrong, in and of itself, but if we do have resources it is our responsibility to use them for the good of God's world and God's people.

Many of the gospel accounts and parables provide snapshots of typical human behaviour. Jesus' diagnosis of the human condition was that we're so often preoccupied with our concerns, anxious about our well-being and grasping in our attempts to make ourselves secure. All these things lead to the anxiety and worry that is at the heart of so much life today. As Jesus says a little later 'can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?'

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 31st July 2022

Sentence

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

Collect

**Generous God,
you give us many gifts
to lead us into the fullness of life;
keep us from clinging to what is fleeting,
and help us to hold firm to all that lasts;
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

Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23

2nd Reading

Colossians 3.1-11

Gospel

Luke 12.13-21

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for wisdom and guidance for world leaders as they work towards eradicating poverty and for Waiapu Pāriha.

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

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

On 31 July the Church remembers Joseph of Arimathea. He is mentioned in all four Gospels as the person who provided for the burial of Jesus (Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42). The four accounts vary in detail and in indications of Joseph's sympathy for Jesus' mission, but the broad picture is clear. Joseph came from the town of Arimathea, north-west of Jerusalem. It could have been as a favour to the disciples that Joseph approached Pilate for the body of Jesus and provided it with decent burial. It is also possible that he was concerned for the ritual defilement that would have ensued if the dead body had remained unburied (Deuteronomy 21:23). For whatever reason, it was a gracious act, the memory of which has been treasured by the church.

According to the first three Gospels, the women who had been with Jesus were with Joseph when he saw to the burial, but John says that Joseph was assisted by Nicodemus. Around this simple account various legends grew up from the second century, including Joseph's involvement in the founding of the church in Lydda and the suggestion that it was he who provided for Jesus' mother Mary after the resurrection. The legend of Joseph's journey to Glastonbury in England with the Holy Grail is a late medieval invention, fostered by Glastonbury in the interests of enhancing its own declining importance in England.

This Week Beginning: 1st August

Tuesday	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips and Games
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Thursday	1.00 pm	Books and Friends in the lounge
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
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 7th August – OT 19

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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