

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 2nd August 2026

Liturgy: p476

OT 18

Psalm 17:1-7,16

Greetings all:

This week Angela is preaching. Here are some of my thoughts on the reading from Matthew 14:13-21, the Feeding of many more than 5,000.

Jesus hears his teacher, mentor, and close friend, John the Baptist, was brutally beheaded at one of Herod's depraved Epsteinlike banquets. In response, Jesus retreats to grieve John's, but finds a massive, grieving crowd searching for hope. There is a powerful contrast here between Herod's birthday party—and Jesus, who meets the poor masses with healing, generosity, and deep compassion. Despite the story's impossibility all were fed until they no longer wanted or were hungry. Their prayer – “give us today our daily bread” was answered. God is bringing in a new age where all have enough to eat.

Tradition places this event at Tabgha on the Sea of Galilee, where a famous fifth-century floor mosaic beneath the church altar shows two fish and four loaves. With the communion bread—the fifth loaf—on the altar, the mosaic invites all who gather at the table into this and other stories of God's abundance. The Last Supper reminded Jesus' disciples of the many times he embodied God's generous compassion, feeding the hungry and honouring and blessing all those he ate with. At every eucharist, we too are invited to remember and live out this radical compassion.

This year is an election year. I wonder how this story with its image of God's compassion, generosity, justice, and care for all shapes our hopes for Tauranga Moana and for Aotearoa-New Zealand, and how that will influence how we vote.

John Hebert TSSF

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 2 August 2026

Sentence:

The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all that fear him, hears their cry, and saves them.

Psalm 145:18–19

Collect:

**God of the hungry,
make us hunger and thirst for the right,
till our thirst for justice has been satisfied
and hunger has gone from the earth.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

OT Reading *Genesis 32:22-31*

NT Reading *Romans 9:1-5*

Gospel *Matthew 14:13-21*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray Samoa and American Samoa who remain deeply vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and we pray for the Archdeacon for Tauranga City and Coast: The Venerable Christopher Tweddell.

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

Church Working Bee

It's been a long time since we've had a church working bee, so we are looking forward to coming together to give our buildings a good spruce up! Please join us on Saturday 12th September 2026, starting at 10.30am. All the jobs will be indoors, with a variety of cleaning and tidying tasks to suit different abilities.

Whether you can spare an hour or stay longer, your help would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work, and it's a great opportunity to enjoy some company while caring for our church.

This Week Beginning: 3rd August

Wednesday 10:00 am Mid-week Communion
2:00 pm SAYGo in the hall
Thursday 12:30 pm Books and Friends
Friday 9:30 am Senior Chef
Sunday 9:30 am Holy Communion

Op Shop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
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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