

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 7th August 2022

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

The opening words of Sunday's Gospel '*Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*'. (Luke 12.32) are words of encouragement which can be drawn upon in several ways.

The command not to be afraid is a message we all need to hear especially at times of anxiety about what will become of us. When we contemplate the picture of the church as a 'little flock' it might be easy to be discouraged by our 'minority status', by what seems to be the overwhelming force of other ways of thinking in the world. Then Jesus' words about his *Father's good pleasure* remind us of the words heard at Jesus' Baptism and at the Transfiguration; he is the one in whom the Father is well-pleased. We too are part of the 'Father's good pleasure'. We – along with others – are God's children, Christ's younger brothers and sisters.

Then there's the promise of the kingdom which is both now and not yet. Although we live now in the blessing of God's love, we acknowledge that there is something in the future which we can't adequately imagine. So we live our present in the light of that tomorrow. The kingdom is the pearl of great price, the treasure buried in a field, the full crop of the harvest, the great wedding feast and much more.

All these images are just hints and visions, but they point us towards hope. '*Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*'. We live in faith.

Jesus' words in the Gospel show what it is to live in hope. It is to have our hearts fixed on the right thing. We are called to 'make purses' for ourselves 'that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven'. When we think of treasure, the things we really value in life above all else, I imagine very few of us would say if we're being serious 'it's the car' or 'the new kitchen we had put in last year'. I suspect what very many of us would say is that our greatest treasures are our relationships with other people, particularly close family and friends.

None of us lives a completely isolated life because we are social creatures – we know and fulfil ourselves in relation to others at home, at work and in other groups such as in this parish. But investing in relationships is difficult and requires the best in us. And we often know in pain and to our great regret that some relationships run into difficulty. Building healthy and flourishing relationships requires significant emotional maturity, time and – critically – faith. Why faith? Because when we invest in our most treasured relationships, we simply do not know what the fruit of that investment will be.

Amidst the many relationships that make up our life, there is one relationship outside of which we would not exist: our relationship with God, who creates and redeems us. Immersing ourselves in that relationship of eternal and unfading love is key to the Christian life. Our treasure is Christ Jesus who came to make us eternal friends of God, so that we might also love and treasure each other.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 7th August 2022

Sentence

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day our Lord is coming.
Matthew 24:42, 44

Collect

**God our treasure,
the reign of your love and justice is your gift;
light our lamps against the darkness,
and equip us for your action,
so we are ready and do not miss your coming;
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 *Genesis 15.1-6*

2nd Reading *Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16*

Gospel *Luke 12.32-40*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Sisters and Brothers of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and for the people of the East Coast Parish.

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

An award for our Toy Librarian

Our Toy Librarian, Merina Foster, attended the Toy Library Federation AGM on 31 July. She was delighted and surprised to receive this year's 'Outstanding Service Award' following nominations by members of our Toy Library. This is wonderful news and fully deserved. Merina has taken our Toy Library to new heights over the 8 months she has been with us. Her enthusiasm and engaging personality together with new ideas and hard work have paid dividends for this important part of our community outreach. Well done, Merina!

The Vicar's whereabouts

The Vicar is on leave from 5th–19th August. Please direct all queries to Lynda in the Parish Office. She will be able to contact Sue in case of emergency.

This Week Beginning: 8th August

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| Tuesday | 1.00 pm | AAW meeting in the lounge |
| Wednesday | 10.00 am | Mid-week Eucharist |
| | 2.00 pm | SAYGo in the hall |
| | 3.00 pm | Service at Radius Matua |
| 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 14th August– OT 20

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| 8.30 am | Holy Eucharist |
| 10.00 am | Holy Eucharist |

Contact Us

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