

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 9th August 2026

Liturgy: p404

OT 19

Psalm 105:1-6,16-22, 44b

Greetings all:

Sunday offers a moment of reflection on divine glory and global peace.

On Thursday we marked the Transfiguration. N.T. Wright says this is the moment Jesus becomes the new Temple. God's glory, filled with mercy, justice, and aroha settles on him. Flanked by Moses (law) and Elijah (Prophets), Jesus fulfils the historic covenants and offers a vivid preview of creation flooded and renewed with God's redeeming presence.

In stark contrast, Thursday was also Hiroshima Day, making this Peace Sunday. We remember the victims of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and acknowledge our Pacific neighbours impacted by decades of unwanted nuclear testing. Today our hearts hold a deep sadness for people enduring violence and war especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. We are encouraged to live this Transfiguration hope, joining with those longing for the peace that passes understanding, that turns swords into ploughshares, and comes wrapped in justice. We look to St Clare of Assisi, remembered this Tuesday, who like her mentor Francis lived this radical peace.

In this light, Matthew 14:22-33 speaks to our modern storms and anxieties including climate change and declining church attendance. We do not face these storms alone. Amid the waves, Jesus calls out: "Be encouraged. It is I. Do not be afraid." Last week's feeding of the many more than five thousand still calls us to deep, gut-level compassion. Jesus is present whether we stay in the boat or step out with Peter. May God give us wisdom and compassion for the next faithful step.

John Hebert TSSF.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 9 August 2026

Sentence:

They cried out in fear, but Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Matthew 14:26-27

Collect:

**Jesus, Saviour in storm,
when the waters of the deep are broken up,
when the landmarks are washed away or drowned,
come to us across the water;
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

OT Reading *Genesis 37:1-4,12-28*

NT Reading *Romans 10:5-15*

Gospel *Matthew 14:22-33*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the resilience of communities and individuals affected by disasters, and that PiRR (the Partners in Risk and Resilience) may help them withstand adversity and rebuild their lives. And we pray for and for the people and ministry support team of the Westshore Parish.

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

Mothers' Union Celebration

This year we celebrate two significant milestones for Mothers' Union – 150 years since Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union in England in 1876, and 140 years since the first overseas branch was established in Christchurch in 1886, bringing Mothers' Union to New Zealand.

Saturday, 8 August, is Mary Sumner Day

Church Working Bee

It's been a long time since we've had a church working bee, so we're 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.

Team Red Bonnie 50



In August Bonnie Hebenton is giving her 50th blood donation. And she is inviting YOU to make a donation in August as well.

Haven't given before? It's time to become a life-saving donor. It's easy, doesn't hurt, and the care and hospitality are great.

Got out of the habit of giving blood? Time to get back into it! Our donations literally save lives. Bonnie's 49 donations have contributed to approx. 147 lives being saved.

When you book in mention **Team Red Bonnie 50** so they can keep a tally. *Call 0800 448 325 to book an appointment or check your eligibility.*

Get your friends and family involved and see if, together, we can get 50 extra donors in August.

This Week Beginning: 10th August

Tuesday	1:00 pm St John's Women's Fellowship 3:15 pm Matua Radius Communion
Wednesday	10:00 am Mid-week Communion 2:00 pm SAYGo in the hall
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

Priest in charge: The Reverend John Hebenton tssf
Email: john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Ph: 07 576 9923 or 021 679 202

Parish Office: Erica Orrick Ph: 07 576 9923
Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm Tuesday - Friday
Email: admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com
Website: www.stjohns-tga.org.nz

Administrator: Lynda Wallace Ph: 027 780 3653
Email: admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com

Wardens: Roger Clark 027 683 8466
Angela Stensness 021 040 6748