

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 23 August
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

In Romans 12, Paul says 'I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...' Paul is not simply talking about our physicality. Rather, he means our *entire selves* – our souls and bodies. The underlying thought here is that we are not our own – we are to give our very selves over to God – although we may well ask how we can give something to God that is already God's own. Perhaps it is helpful to think of this as an attitude of mind.

Hear how 'The Message', which is a contemporary paraphrase of the Bible, expresses Paul's words: 'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering... Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out... Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.'

Many of us, no doubt, spend time reflecting upon the state of our society and our world. Among other aspects, we might mention intolerance of other people's views or ways of life, anti-social behaviour, fake news, rumour mongering, conspiracy theories and those aspects of the media and the internet that delight in and exploit

the base aspects of our human nature. There is a massive task of re-formation to be done, a massive task of renewing hearts and minds.

The opportunity to be present here on a Sunday is a joy. In a world where many are persecuted for their faith we are privileged to be together in church. It is a place devoted to beauty, to prayer and the worship of God and where intercession is made on behalf of others and especially for those who suffer. It is a place where we receive the grace of the sacraments and see the image of Christ in each other.

This feeling – if you share it with me – should not make us smug and certainly not holier than thou. It is this – I understand Paul’s passion in his strong exhortation to the Romans that we should respond by consciously giving to God the gift of our lives. And that should make us even more committed to God’s mission as we seek – God helping us – to serve our community, our nation and our world

With every blessing

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 23rd AUGUST 2020

Sentence

Martha said, Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world. *John 11:27*

Collect

**Living God,
you sent your Son Jesus to your people.
Embolden your church to proclaim Jesus as Messiah,
and to trust in him.
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 *Isaiah 51.1-6*

2nd Reading *Romans 12.1-8*

Gospel *Matthew 16.13-20*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for Hui Amorangi ki Te Tairawhiti and the Rohe of Te Matau-a-Maui, Tamaki-Tamatea, & Waka o Te Whakapono, and for Mission Partners serving in Central and South Asia.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Cherie, Sherryl, Phyllis, Colin & Joan, Ron & Sue, Norman & Dinah.

PLEASE REMEMBER that during Level 2...

- please bear in mind 1 metre physical distancing from others not in your bubble as you enter church and as you take your seat.
- at the Peace, please stay in your seats and use a hands-together bow or a wave
- communion will be in one kind only
- do not come to church if you are unwell
- good personal hygiene remains highly important: washing your hands frequently, use hand sanitiser, cough into your elbow.

FAREWELL FOR ISABEL

This Sunday we will say farewell to the Reverend Isabel Mordecai as she and her husband Allan prepare to move to the Auckland area at the end of the month. Please join us for worship and to thank Isabel for her valuable contribution to St John's over the last four years.

PARISH MAGAZINE – LATEST EDITION IS HERE!

The **August** edition 'Tales of Winter' has been published and is available on our website. Thank you to our contributors.

This Week Beginning: 24 August

Monday 9.00 am Walking Group

Tuesday 7.00 pm Vestry meeting

Wednesday 10.00 am Mid-week Eucharist
2.00 pm SAYGo in the hall

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

Service for Sunday 30th August - OT 22

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

10.00 am Holy Eucharist (one service only as it is the 5th Sunday)

If we are still in Level 2, the service will have recorded hymns to listen to and music before and after the service and during communion.

Contact Us

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YOUR CONSIDERATION PLEASE...

In the **Parish Office** we are doing our best to maintain physical distancing. Please do not come into the office space unless invited by the Vicar or the Parish Administrator. Please speak with us over the stable door or we will come out and speak with you in the foyer.