

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 30 August 2020

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

Last week in her sermon the Rev'd Sue Genner hinted that she was going through the process which would inform the Bishop's decision as to whether she would be ordained priest later this year. I am very pleased that Bishop Andrew announced this week that Sue will be ordained priest in Waiapu Cathedral on Saturday 28 November. Please hold Sue in your prayers ahead of this momentous occasion.

The path to ordination – both as deacon and as priest – in this Diocese, as in others, is thorough and involves rigorous testing of vocation and considerable training and formation. And theological education, training and formation as a priest continues after ordination. Speaking personally, I continue to learn – all the time and in many ways – each new parish and community of people adding colour and interest to a wonderful tapestry.

The Christian life and Christian ministry, whether one is ordained or not, is a joy and a privilege but it is neither straightforward nor easy especially in a culture which is increasingly secular in outlook. In Sunday's reading from the Letter to the Romans, we hear Paul calling his readers away from the values and judgements of their dominant culture which admired wealth, might and rank and looked down on vulnerability and weakness. Paul's commands to the Roman Christians to think no more of themselves than they ought, to contribute to the needs of others and to extend hospitality to strangers were incompatible with the Roman Empire's arrogance and its economics of ruthless greed. Paul's message calls us to reflect on the values of our

own culture and what our attitude is to them. It is no easier a reflection now than it was in Roman times.

In the Gospel, Jesus highlights the need for this same transformation in the habits and attitudes of Peter. In last week's passage, the apostle recognised Jesus as 'the Messiah, the Son of the living God'. This week, we find Peter scandalised as Jesus begins to speak of the suffering and death that stand at the heart of his mission. Peter imagines that he is acting in Jesus's best interests when cries out in horror – 'God forbid!' – that suffering and crucifixion should be the fate in store for God's anointed one.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is wary of the interpretation in terms of worldly status, wealth and might of his identity as Messiah. Jesus does not want people to know that he is the Messiah until they know how different his mission will be from their expectations. Jesus knows that the disciples' misconceptions will not be cured by words alone, however often they are repeated. These disciples will come to understand this teaching only after Christ has walked the way of the cross, showing it to be the way of life.

With every blessing

Sue (Vicar)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Very many good wishes to Hazel Genner and Chas Swinburne who celebrated their 90th birthdays this week. May you have many more!

HEALTH & WELL-BEING: PLEASE REMEMBER

- good personal hygiene remains highly important: washing your hands frequently, use hand sanitiser, cough into your elbow.
- in addition to Covid, other respiratory illnesses – such as colds, 'flu and sore throats – and stomach upsets are infectious. Please do not come to church if you are unwell or have had any symptoms of these illnesses in the prior 48-72 hours. (This is in accordance with Ministry of Health recommendations). We will miss you but it is important that we care for each other and keep each other safe.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 30th AUGUST 2020

Sentence

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

Collect

**Eternal and everliving God,
our beginning and our end,
you give us strength in the face of suffering and death.
Set our minds on divine, not worldly things.
Give us courage to take up our cross and follow you.
Help us to trust and live in the power
of the resurrection of Jesus.
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

Romans 12:9-21

Gospel

Matthew 16.21-28

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the World Council of Churches & Christian World Service.

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

LEVEL 2 PROTOCOLS

- keep 1 metre physical distancing from others 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

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.

The theme for the next edition will be ***Friends and Friendship***. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, or the Vicar by **12 October**.

This Week Beginning: 31 August

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	3.00 pm	Matua Lifecare Communion
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

Services for Sunday 6th September - OT 23

Ezekiel 33.7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

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

Contact Us

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