

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 10th September 2023
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greetings:

The gospel today is part of the fourth block of teaching (of five) in Matthew and in some sense, presents Jesus as a new Moses. The previous three blocks focus on: *discipleship* (chapters 5-7), *mission* (chapter 10), and *the kingdom of heaven* (chapter 13), and the final one (chapters 24-25) looks at *the end of all things*.

This teaching block looks at *how we live together*, in “*ekklesia*” ... as a collection of people living in community with each other ... not in a set of buildings, or even under a common set of rules ... we are *living stones*. The Greek word often implies an assembly for decision making, but here, quite specifically describes “a congregation of the people of God.” We are, gathered around *the Messiah of God* that Peter has just recognised ... we are focussed *in ekklesia* on Jesus!

The overall image is one of a community of faith (like us) who live for, care for, and discipline each other, in love. I cannot imagine a simpler, or more attractive guideline. While the other gospel writers had other imperatives, Matthew has his own people at heart, and as *the new Israel*, he holds us as close as can be. We could do worse than *listen in love*.

Grace and peace.

Tony

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 10th September 2023

Sentence

'Where two or three are gathered in My name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.'

Matthew 18:20

Collect

**Creator God,
You have made us
not in one mould, but in many:
so deepen our unity in Christ
that we may rejoice in our diversity.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.**

OT Reading *Ezekiel 33:7-11*

NT Reading *Romans 13:8-14*

Gospel *Matthew 18:15-20*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea and for the people of the Papamoa East Anglican Mission and their clergy.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Isabel, Sheryll, Taylor, Viv, David, Nikki, Kerri, Jo L, Craig.

We pray for the soul of the recently departed, John, and for his family.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be “**The Colours of Spring**”. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **17th September 2023**.

This Week Beginning: 11th September

Tuesday	7.00 pm	AAW meeting
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	3.00 pm	Service at Radius Matua
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 17th September –

8.30 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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