

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 4th September 2022

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

Our response to God's call upon us through the Gospel is measured by our readiness to think and behave differently because of what we hear. What is the purpose for which God formed each of us? What part has God called each of us to play? What, on the other hand, would be the consequences of going our own way? These questions are for each of us individually and us collectively as a parish. Following Jesus Christ may be a journey of beauty and brokenness but going our own way may turn out to be a dead end. All Sunday's readings challenge us to make ourselves wholly available to God.

When we commit ourselves to something, do we really know what we're taking on? In many areas of life, the answer is often 'no!' We may do our research beforehand, but we still can't be sure how it will turn out. Many of the unexpected consequences of big decisions are happy and fulfilling ones but there's always a risk of uncomfortable outcomes. We can never be fully prepared for the unexpected. This is an observation which you will all be able to confirm from your own experience. The important thing is not to step into life with one's eyes closed, thinking there are no risks at all and only joy ahead.

In telling the stories of the builder who couldn't complete his tower and the king who hadn't calculated how big and effective his enemy's army might be, Jesus wasn't telling his followers not to make any decision until they were convinced they were invincible but rather to consider how resilient their faith could be in the face of disaster.

Following Jesus Christ on the way is a significant undertaking and, naturally, we contemplate what is involved, not always easy. It is for each of us to discern what part God is calling us to play. We are not alone in our discernment, however. The Christian communities of the church are nurturing grounds. We take part at whatever stage we have reached in our own Christian journey. We do our best to hear God's call so we take part with our focus wholly on God and God's desires for us. Following Jesus Christ makes demands on us which test our ability to think and behave differently.

It might be a demand to help someone in distress or a demand to read the Gospel in a new light. It might be a demand to volunteer one's services to God through the church or community. It might be an obvious demand or a challenging demand. But our response must be on what we believe to be God's terms and not on our own terms. Our commitment to God is but part of a relationship in which God's commitment to you, to me – to us – captures all our smallest offerings and makes of them something beautiful.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 4th September 2022

Sentence

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Jesus cannot be his disciple.

Luke 14:27

Collect

**God of gentleness,
you give up all to be with us;
enable us to love, obey, and hold fast to you alone,
so that we may complete what we have started,
built on the foundation of Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

1st Reading *Deuteronomy 30.15-20*

2nd Reading *Philemon 1-21*

Gospel *Luke 14.25-33*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the provision of safe continuous water supplies in the Diocese of Polynesia and for Waiapu Anglican Centre staff.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Bronva, Colin, Shirley.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Gardens and Gardening**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **18th September 2022**.

OASIS OP SHOP is now open on SATURDAYS

Our Op Shop is now open every Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The new coffee shop opened recently and their hours of business include Saturdays. They are busy and are bringing new customers and therefore income for our shop. In addition, there are people who wish to shop on a Saturday because they work elsewhere during the week.

If you have a spare Saturday to volunteer – perhaps once a month – please contact Maree, our Op Shop Manager. Her contact details are:

oasisopshopmanager@gmail.com
or 021 261 9833 or 07 576 2422 (during Shop hours)

This Week Beginning: 5th September

Tuesday	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips and Games
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
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 11th September –

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8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

Vicar:	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
Ph:	576 9923 or Vicarage 570 0424 or 021 432 365	
Email:	sue.beverly@waiapu.com	
Parish Office:	Lynda Wallace	
Ph:	576 9923	
Email:	admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com	
Website:	www.stjohns-tga.org.nz	
Wardens:	Bill Aldridge	021 982 984
	Roger Clark	027 683 8466