

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 6th September 2020
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

Love, grace, forgiveness and mercy pervade this week's readings for all are concerned with how God's people live together, in less than ideal worlds.

Love is the primary obligation Jesus Christ commanded of one human being to another: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul continues his teaching on life in the Christian community and develops his own thinking about love: 'Owe no one anything, except to love one another...'



But what are we to make of the commandment to love? Emotions are not something we can easily control, so we may think that a command to love is unrealistic. I think it helps to explore what is meant in this context by the word 'love'. In today's world, romantic novelists, movie and TV producers and the advertising industry have frequently reduced 'love' to sentimentality and commodified it as a means of selling things. Love is portrayed as an emotional state, a warm feeling about someone or something. This is not what the New Testament means by 'love'.

God's love for us is more than an occasional warm feeling about us. We know God loves us, not because of the way God feels about us, but because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son' (John 3.16).

What Paul and the other New Testament writers mean by love is not something centred on our emotions – how we feel – but on our actions – what we do. To love someone is actively to promote their good.

Jesus and Paul command us to love by their teaching and they instruct us in loving by their example. We gather together Sunday by Sunday to hear that teaching and to be drawn into Christ's self-giving love in the sacrament. We are called into a community in which we can practice that love and from which we can go out into the world to share it.

With every blessing

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 6th SEPTEMBER 2020

Sentence

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for whoever loves another has fulfilled the law. *Romans 13:8*

Collect

**Gracious God,
when two or three are gathered
in your name you are there,
ever present with your family, the church.
Give us grace and maturity when we are in conflict.
Help us to listen, to forgive
and to live together in mutual love.
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

Ezekiel 33.7-11

2nd Reading

Romans 13.8-14

Gospel

Matthew 18.15-20

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the people of the Holy Trinity, Tauranga and their clergy, and for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

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

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.

PARISH MAGAZINE

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: 7 September

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
	1.00 pm	Mahjong in the lounge
Tuesday	7.00 pm	AAW meeting in the lounge
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 13th September - OT 24

Genesis 50.15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-25

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

4.00 pm Messy Church

If we are in Level 2, the services will have recorded hymns to listen to and music before and after the service and during communion. Messy Church will not be held if we are in Level 2.

Contact Us

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