

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 25th September 2022

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

Jesus' parable about Lazarus and the unnamed rich man is not just a moral tale about riches and poverty. Jesus' story works at several levels. It is very like a well-known folk tale in the ancient world – Jesus was by no means the first to tell of how wealth and poverty might be reversed in the future life. However, we need to see how Jesus has changed the pattern that people would expect.

The story in itself doesn't add anything new to the general folk belief about fortunes being reversed in a future life. If it is a *parable*, that means that we should take it as picture-language about something that was going on in Jesus' own work. In the usual story, when someone asks permission to send a message back to the people who are still alive on earth, the permission is granted. Here it isn't; and the sharp ending of the story points beyond itself to all sorts of questions that Jesus' hearers, and Luke's readers, were urged to face.

The ending picks up where, a chapter earlier, the story of the father and his two sons, the so-called parable of the Prodigal Son, had ended. The older brother in the earlier story is like the rich man in this: both want to keep the poor brother or neighbour out of sight and out of mind. Jesus has been criticised for welcoming outcasts and sinners; now it appears that he's putting into practice in the present world what, it was widely believed, would happen in the future one. 'On earth as it is in heaven' remains his watchword. The age to come must be anticipated in the present.

The Pharisees, being themselves lovers of money, were behaving to the people Jesus was welcoming like the rich man was behaving to Lazarus. All Jesus is asking them, is to do what Moses and the prophets would have urged. As Luke makes clear throughout, his kingdom-mission is the fulfilment of the whole story of Israel. Anyone who understands the law and the prophets must therefore see that Jesus is bringing them to completion. If they do not, then even someone rising from the dead will not bring them to their senses.

The last sentence of the parable speaks of the whole hope of Israel for restoration and renewal. It speaks, for Luke's readers from that day to this, most powerfully of Jesus himself. One day soon, the reader knows, the law and the prophets will all come true in a new way, as Jesus himself comes again, opening the door to God's new age in which all wrong will be put right.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 25th September 2022

Sentence

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Collect

**God of resurrection,
where there is death, you bring new life;
challenge our attachment to wealth and power,
so that we may release others
from the chains of poverty, hunger, and injustice,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through the Risen Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

1st Reading *Amos 6.1a,4-7*

2nd Reading *1 Timothy 6.6-19*

Gospel *Luke 16.19-31*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Christian community in Pakistan and for the people of the Southern Hawkes Bay Parish and their clergy.

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

Help create a new *Recipe Book*

Our OASIS Op Shop team has suggested that we create a new* recipe book featuring favourite and well-tested recipes from our parish members, their family and friends. The new books will be for sale in the Op Shop. The categories for the book will be: Starters, Soups and Savouries; Main dishes; Desserts; Baking; Christmas Treats.

If you would like to contribute, please email a copy of one or two of your favourite recipes to Lynda so that she can put them together as a booklet. Please add your name if you wish. The recipes should not be direct copies from any other recipe book as this would be a breach of copyright. However, if you have a recipe from a book that you have changed or modified that would be fine.

Please send your contributions to Lynda (by email if possible) by 31st October, as we would like to have these recipe books available for sale by the end of November.

If you have any queries please talk to Sue (Vicar) or Lynda.

* Those of you who have been in the parish for some years may remember previous recipe books. We thought it was time for a new one and selling via the Op Shop seems a good approach.

This Week Beginning: 26th September

Tuesday	7.00 pm	Vestry meeting via Zoom
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 2nd October – Feast of Dedication

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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