

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 3rd October 2021
Feast of Dedication of St John's

Dear Friends

There are several days in the year when we could choose to celebrate our parish church. I have chosen this, the first Sunday in October, a day traditionally reserved in the wider church calendar for a Dedication Festival. Some of us have a long history here; others are relative newcomers. We give thanks for the hard work and dedication of those who provided the inspiration and the resources for the building of this church and for those, over the years, who have contributed to its upkeep. As we reflect on the life of the St John's faith community and the ministries that continue to be offered through our activities, we reflect that much has happened over the years in church and society. We give thanks for the past and the present; and we pray for the future.

I read something a while ago which suggested that, temperamentally, people divide into three types: those who are rowers, those who drift around on rafts and those who are canoeists. Rowers like to travel in a vessel which allows them to look back from where they've come. Those who drift on rafts like living in the present – coping with immediate demands even if that means going round in circles. Canoeists are more comfortable looking where they're going, inspired by what lies ahead, by the future. The fact is that all of us have to manage our life in relation to the past, the present and the future. All these aspects play a part in making sense of our life but perhaps some of us are more comfortable with one aspect of time than another.

A dedication festival in any community is about celebrating that community's story: celebrating all those who have gone before, celebrating the day on which stones were laid and living stones gathered as people of God in worship and praise. Of course, we give thanks for a beautiful building that stands as a testament to the faith of past generations as well as the faithfulness of those who gather now. St John's witnesses to the place of God in our community and proclaims our relationship with God, our story with God and where we are in that story.

As we continue to be the living temple, people will come and go, life will continue to unfold, pressure on our community and our finances will challenge us. But we will continue God's ministry of love, being living stones of faith and truth. I ask you: how do we manage to be not just rowers but canoeists? How can we not just look back but look forward? What difference will we make? How can we offer people an encounter with the living God, a sense of hope in their future?

So, as well as offering a ministry of faith, love and truth, we need to continue to offer St John's to be for people what it was when first constructed, a glorious declaration not only of God's faithfulness in our past and of the reality of God in the here and now but of the promise of a future in God and with God.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 3rd OCTOBER 2021

Sentence

'My sheep hear my voice,' says the Lord. 'I know them and they follow me; and I give them eternal life.'

John 10:27-28

Collect

**Holy God,
to whose glory we celebrate
the dedication of St John's as a house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you
within its walls:
and we pray that all who seek you
in this place may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen**

1st Reading *Genesis 28.11-18*

2nd Reading *1 Peter 2.1-10*

Gospel *John 10.22-29*

Prayers of the People

We pray for All Saint's Anglican School in Apia, Samoa and for the Waiapu Standing Committee and its members.

We pray for those in need especially those who ask for our prayers:
Colin, Annaliese

This Week Beginning: 4th October

Currently we are in DELTA Level 2.

Some of the following will only happen if we are in Level 1.

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	3.00 pm	Service at Radius Matua Lifecare
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Service of the Word
	2.00 pm	No Golden Age
	4.00 pm	Music Group practice (<i>Level 1 only</i>)
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
Playgroup	Closed for school holidays	
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 10th October – OT 28

8.30 am	Service of the Word <u>in church</u> (<i>Delta Level 2</i>)
	OR
	Holy Eucharist <u>in church</u> (<i>Level 1</i>)
10.00 am	Service of the Word <u>via Zoom</u> (<i>Delta Level 2</i>)
	OR
	Holy Eucharist <u>in church</u> (<i>Level 1</i>)

Contact Us

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