

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 10th October 2021
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

Sunday's Gospel story paints a vivid picture. A man runs up to Jesus, falls on his knees and asks, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He was clearly fascinated by Jesus. Had he heard Jesus' teaching or seen his healing ministry? We don't know: but he comes to Jesus with conviction, confidence and hope.

It is a text rich with challenge but also possibilities. We hear extreme demands – sell everything, give to the poor, follow me; extreme judgment – it is impossible for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God; and extreme promises – with God all things are possible; whoever leaves everything and follows me will receive great rewards. These extreme assertions are held together with no attempt to lessen the tension.

It is worth noticing Jesus' reaction to the man. We're told that Jesus looked at this man and loved him. Jesus wanted to love this man into the Kingdom. But, in the end, the important thing was what the man wanted. Jesus doesn't force himself on anyone, he simply lovingly invites. Did this man want eternal life, did he want God enough to throw away his earthly securities and throw himself totally onto the love and provision of God? We don't know.

We may think it's a tall order, a challenge that goes beyond reasonableness, but it was the man who approached Jesus and asked the question. Do we sometimes go to God asking – but asking already knowing the answer we want or asking in the hope that God

will simply rubber stamp, give substance to, our own dreams and desires. Can we expect that of God? For the disciples and for us, Jesus holds out the hope that, with God, change and growth are not only possible but are already happening. And it is Jesus who brings God to us and us to God.

This journey will take all of our lifetime. How can we let go of everything and follow Christ? Well, one day at our death, we will all have to. And we are on the journey now. Only as this process of deep conversion begins to take place in our lives do we begin to become delivered from treating the gifts of God as another set of things we may acquire. In contemplation, we glimpse that eternal life, the life of God's kingdom, can begin here and now.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 10th OCTOBER 2021

Sentence

There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age, and in the age to come eternal life. *Mark 10:29-30*

Collect

**God of the possible,
and the impossible,
when we come to you with questions
and struggle with your answers,
grant us faith in believing
as we await the treasure from heaven,
which is your faithful promise.
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 *Amos 5.6-7,10-15*

2nd Reading *Hebrews 4.12-16*

Gospel *Mark 10.17-31*

Prayers of the People

We pray for the staff and Board of Anglican Missions and for the people of the Papamoa East Anglican Mission and Beachaven Projects.

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

PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Books and Films**. Please use your imagination! We look forward to your contributions. Photos welcome! Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **15 November**.

This Week Beginning: 11th 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	7.00 pm	AAW meeting in the Lounge
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Service of the Word
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the Hall
	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 17th October – OT 29

8.30 am Service of the Word in church (*Delta Level 2*)

OR

Holy Eucharist in church (*Level 1*)

10.00 am Service of the Word via Zoom (*Delta Level 2*)

OR

Holy Eucharist in church (*Level 1*)

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