

Welcome! Haere mai!

## St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



**Sunday 11 October 10am**

**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### *Dear Friends*

The parable of the King's Son's Wedding is outrageous. It begs to be taken seriously but not literally; as truth but not as historical fact. Besides, to hear it and conclude that God is an angry king doesn't fit with the God revealed by Jesus Christ throughout the gospels.

It is clear from the reaction of the chief priests and the Pharisees that they understand what is being said and that it is aimed at them. It's just that they do not believe that this ordinary human being standing before them, taking liberties with the tradition that they understand and are authorized to interpret, has their lives in his hand.

What about the man without a wedding robe? It is hard to believe that he is being treated fairly. Perhaps he hadn't realised where he was. He had just gone along with the crowd, eager for a free meal. He didn't know he was celebrating the Son's banquet. The King's initial question is quite friendly in tone. Several possible responses might have allowed the man to stay at the banquet.

He could have said 'I saw it was important and I didn't want to miss it' or 'I don't have a wedding robe but can I borrow one?' There are other possible responses too (I'll offer some on Sunday). Instead, he's silent and he loses his chance. Like those who rejected the initial invitation, he is not interested in his relationship with the King. He never expected or wanted to meet him and he doesn't care what the banquet is for.

No doubt, this is a parable of judgment, but it may not be the judgment we think it is. Perhaps our fear about God's judgments arises from the assumption that God judges us in the same way we so often judge others. It is not unusual for our judgments of others to be judgments of exclusion. Isn't it the opposite with God? What if Jesus is trying to shock us into seeing that the kingdom of heaven does not operate according to our standards? What if God's judgment on our lives is one of grace, acceptance and invitation; a judgment of inclusion?

Arohanui

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

### **Sentence**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

*Matthew 21:42*

### **Collect**

**Kind and generous God,  
you prepare a feast for all people.  
May we prepare for your banquet  
by putting on the garment of love  
that springs from a pure heart,  
a clear conscience, and a genuine faith.  
Help us to bring the lost and lonely,  
the poor and those in need  
to your feast where all are fed.  
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**

*Isaiah 25.1-9*

## **2nd Reading**

*Philippians 4.1-9*

## **Gospel**

*Matthew 22.1-14*

## **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the people of the Papamoa East Anglican Mission and their clergy, and for the many volunteers who support the work of Anglican Missions.

We pray for those in need especially those who ask for our prayers: Craig, Cherie, Phyllis, Sherryl, Mike & Rachael, Ron & Sue.

## **TIME TO REMEMBER**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm there will be an *All Souls' Service for the Commemoration of the Departed*. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the lives of those dear to us who have died. It is appropriate for people who have lost a loved one recently or many years ago. The names of those to be remembered will be read out during the service and, if you wish, you may light a candle in memory of your loved one. *Please see the website or separate flyer for details.*

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR**

St John's Playgroup and Golden Age (for residents of retirement villages) have been running for more than 20 years and are highly valued by those who attend. Both enjoy the support of committed volunteers, but both need individuals to take leadership roles. We have an excellent Playgroup Coordinator but currently have no one dedicated to Golden Age.

Anglican Care Waiapu (the social services arm of the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu) has agreed to fund the parish so that we can employ a Community Activities Coordinator (part-time). This person will be responsible for leading our current Golden Age provision and for researching, developing and implementing the provision of activities for independent older people, both those who are church members and for those who have no immediate connection with the church. This person will also provide some support to the Playgroup.

This is a very exciting development which, if successful, will help us as a parish maintain and grow our community activities. If you know anyone who may be interested in applying for the role, a job description is available from the Parish Office. And, in any case, do chat with me (the Vicar) if you would like to know more!

### **This Week Beginning: 12 October**

<b>Monday</b>	9.00 am	Walking Group
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	AAW meeting in the lounge
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
	4.00 pm	Music group practice
<b>Thursday</b>	11.00 am	Communion at Bob Owens
	7.30 pm	Toy Library AGM in the lounge
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
<b>Playgroup</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
<b>Toy Library</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

### **Services for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Luke the Evangelist**

*Isaiah 35:3-6; 2 Timothy 4.5-17; Luke 10.1-9*

8.30 am Holy Eucharist    10.00 am Holy Eucharist

### **Contact Us**

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