Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 1st November 2026

Liturgy: p456 *OT 31 All Saints'* *Psalm 34:1-10,22*

Greetings all:

This Sunday, **All Saints Day**, we gather with Christians globally to light candles and remember loved ones who have died over the past year. For at least 12 centuries November 1st has been the day Christians have honoured the saints, firstly all those who died as martyrs, and then all those great people of faith the rest of us look up to and are inspired by. Who are your favourite saints and what do they offer you as you seek to live the gospel.

Complementing this is **All Souls' Day** on November 2nd, established in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries to remember *all* people of faith, particularly those we personally grieve. Today we look back on all those who have paved the way for us - especially those we have loved and who loved us, and those who inspire us. As we honour their memory and give thanks for the ways they have blessed us over our lifetimes, we take another step in letting them go, trusting that they now rest in God, as they have always.

We do this considering some powerful images in the readings for this week. We hear again Matthews's version of the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount which we have referred to often this year. It is the heart of Matthew's Gospel. In these verses Jesus upends conventional ideas of success, teaching instead that the humble, the grieving, and the peacemakers are actually the most honoured people and are the ones to look up to and aspire to be like.

All three readings invite us to take note of what we see and feel as we reflect on both the images and on God's promises offered in each. I wonder then:

- How do they help us see the reign of God today?

- How do they help us name those we might call saints today, those who inspire us?
- How do they help us love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind by loving ALL our neighbours as ourselves?



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 1st November 2026

Sentence:

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23:11-12

Collect

Almighty God, give your people grace to withstand
the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the one true God; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

OT Reading *Revelations 7:9-17*

NT Reading *1 John 3:1-3*

Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the youth of Fiji, navigating challenges of identity, employment, and migration, and we pray for Retired Bishops of Waiapu: John Bluck, George Connor, Murray Mills, David Rice.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Lynda, Lawrence, Reg, Jon, Angela R, Robyn and Vaughan.

New Vicar – You Are Invited

A service to install Rev'd Andrea Jerry Ryan as Vicar of St John's will be held at **3pm** on **Saturday 14 November**. We look forward to welcoming Andrea to our parish and celebrating this special occasion together.
Following the service, please join us for afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome -- please bring a plate to share.

Christmas Potluck Lunch

Join us at St John's on Saturday 5 December for a festive Christmas Potluck Lunch. Enjoy entertainment from the St John's Singers, browse the Lavender Craft Sales Table for Christmas gifts, and catch up with friends. More details to follow.

Synod Article on AI

This month, *Anglican Taonga* published an online article about Motion 10: AI Technologies, presented at this year's General Synod.
The article provides background to the motion from our Synod Rep, Tim Cross, as its Mover, acknowledges the contributions of our working group members from across the South Pacific Province, and recognises St John's Women's Fellowship as key contributors to the motion.
Read the full article here:
https://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/general_synod/ai_motion_10 .

Choral Evensong

All Parishioners are invited to attend the liturgy of Choral Evensong at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Mount Maunganui on the first Sunday of every month at 4.00pm. November: All Hallows' Evensong: Celebrating the Saints of the church over the centuries.

This Week Beginning: 2nd November 2026

Wednesday	10:00 am	Mid-week Communion
	2:00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Thursday	12:30 pm	Books and Friends at Kunul
Friday	9:30 am	Senior Chef
Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Communion

Op Shop	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Monday to Friday
	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9:30am – 11:30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9:30am – 11:30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Contact Us

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