

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 8th November 2020
OT 32 / 3rd Sunday before Advent

Dear Friends

Like other parables in Matthew, the parable of the ten bridesmaids is allegory, a story revealing a hidden meaning, and it takes considerable unravelling. In the meaning of the original Greek, we are talking not about 'bridesmaids' as we think of them, but of young girls probably about 12 years old. And rather than think of them as 'wise' and 'foolish', let us think of them as 5 wise girls and 5 naïve girls.

What does it mean to be wise? We could spend a long time discussing wisdom and what it means to be wise in our own lives. So, let's just focus on what messages we can take away from Sunday's readings and Jesus' instruction to 'keep awake'. I suggest that these include valuing what we have, making the most of the gifts we've been given and being alert to the present moment, to what's happening around us now. Remember what the five wise girls and five naïve girls were waiting for? It wasn't a funeral. It was a wedding, a party. This is not a parable about what happens at the end of life. It is a parable about the nature of life itself.

An attitude of gratitude for all we have been given in creation and in our lives somehow transcends and transforms the situation we are in. It accepts life as it is – the good things but also the possibility of failure, mistakes or tragedy and, in the process of accepting it all, we are somehow changed. We begin to see new possibilities where there were none before. We are able to say 'yes' when everything around us seems to be shouting 'no'.

Remember, *this* is the day and the hour to which Jesus refers in the Gospel. Jesus Christ is with us *now* and he returns again and again in the lives and the faces of the people we meet. We are invited to take delight in our lives and be transformed.

Arohanui

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 8th NOVEMBER 2020

Sentence

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:42, 44

Collect

**God our desire and our judge,
we look for your coming
and know that when we meet you
we will have to account for our lives.
Assist us to live so we are ready to greet you with joy,
fully prepared for the feast which lasts forever.
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

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Gospel

Matthew 25.1-13

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the people of the Riverslea Parish and their clergy, and for those who work for peace and reconciliation.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Cherie, Mike & Rachael, Ron & Sue, Norman & Dinah, Craig, Colin.

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Our Working Bee will ensure the Church is spick and span for the run up to Christmas. Anyone and everyone can help. There will be teams for the Grounds, Church, Hall, Kitchen & Lounge, Exterior (eg windows, sweeping paths). Even a little help is good. To indicate how you can help there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church. At 10.00 am we will have morning tea together.

ORDINATION AS PRIEST OF THE REV'D SUE GENNER

Sue will be ordained priest in Napier Cathedral in a service to be held at 1pm on Saturday 28 November. All are welcome to attend. You may like to share lifts. Nearer the time Lynda will be able to collect names of those offering lifts and those wanting lifts.

ADVENT CONVERSATIONS: LIVING IN HOPE

Our Advent Conversations will offer the opportunity to think about what it means to live well and to die well. We are people of history and people of hope. We look back to see where we have come from and we look forward in hope to what lies ahead.

The sessions will be on Wednesdays: 25th November and 2nd, 9th, 16th December at 11.00 am or 7.00 pm. If you are interested in participating please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. *Leaflets giving more details are available in the foyer.*

NEXT PARISH MAGAZINE – YOUR ARTICLES PLEASE

The theme will be **Christmas**: this could be something about what Christmas means to you, memories of Christmas past or hopes for this Christmas. Contributions to Lynda by **7 December** please.

LOOKING AHEAD – MARK YOUR DIARIES

Service of Advent Carols and Readings

We hope you will be able to join us for our service of Advent Carols and Readings which will be on **Sunday 6th December** at 5.00pm.

Lavender Craft Group Morning Tea

Please join us for the annual craft sale and morning tea – on **Monday 7th December** from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Admission will be \$6.00. There will be a gift table with great gifts for Christmas.

This Week Beginning: 9th November

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	3.00pm 7.00pm	Matua Lifecare Communion AAW AGM in the lounge
Wednesday	10.00 am 2.00 pm 4.00 pm	Mid-week Eucharist SAYGo in the hall Music group practice
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 15th November: 2nd before Advent

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

8.30 am Holy Eucharist 10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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