Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 15th November 2026

Liturgy: p476 *OT 33* *Psalm 123*

"Encourage one another and build up each other."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Tēnā koutou katoa, e te whānau o St John's

Today is a special day for me as I begin my ministry as your new Vicar. I come with a grateful heart, a willingness to listen and learn, and a genuine desire to walk alongside you in faith, fellowship and service. My husband Reverend Tony Ryan is alongside me and we are thrilled to be here at St John's.

Our readings today speak beautifully into this new beginning.

In **Judges 4:1–7**, Deborah reminds us that God calls people to lead with wisdom, courage and faith. As your Vicar, I recognise that leadership is not about doing everything myself. It is about listening to God, recognising the strengths of others and working together for the good of our Church and community.

Psalm 123 reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on God. As we begin this new chapter together, we may not know everything that lies ahead, but we can trust in God's guidance and mercy.

In **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**, Paul calls us to be children of light, encouraging and building one another up. This is my hope for St John's: a welcoming Church where our tamariki, rangatahi, adults and kaumātua all feel valued, where different cultures are embraced, and where everyone knows they belong.

In **Matthew 25:14–30**, Jesus teaches us that God has entrusted each of us with gifts and responsibilities. Some gifts are visible, others are quietly offered through prayer, hospitality, kindness and service. Every gift matters, and I look forward to discovering how we can use them together.

As your new Vicar, I come to listen, to learn your stories, to honour those who have faithfully served before me, and to discover together where God is calling St John's next.

I want us to be a Church that cares for one another, welcomes the stranger, nurtures our young people, honours our elders and reaches beyond our church walls with the love of Christ.

He waka eke noa.
We are all in this together.

My prayer is that we will grow together in faith, support one another through life's challenges, celebrate our blessings and serve our community with compassion.

May St John's continue to be a place where God's love is not only spoken about but genuinely experienced.

Kia whakakotahi tātou i raro i te aroha o te Karaiti.
May we be united in the love of Christ.

Āmine.

"I am grateful that God has called me to serve here at St John's. I look forward to getting to know each of you, sharing a cup of tea, hearing your stories, praying with you and discovering what God has planned for us. This is not just the beginning of my ministry here. It is the beginning of our journey together."

Vicar, The Reverend Andrea Jerry Ryan

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 15th November 2026

Sentence:

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other. *1 Thessalonians 5:9–11*

Collect

We pray you, Jesus,
take the old water, our busy conscientious lives,
and turn them into gospel wine,
that everyone may see your life and thirst;
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

OT Reading *Judges 4:1–7*

NT Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Gospel *Matthew 25:14-30*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Anglican Financial Care which provides financial services and support for clergy and lay workers across the province, and we pray for the people of Waikohu Co-operating parish & their clergy.

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.

Christmas Giving – Mission to Seafarers & Foodbank

As we celebrate Christmas, we invite you to share a little kindness by donating some Christmas goodies for the Mission to Seafarers and/or our local Foodbank. Please bring your donations unwrapped so they can be distributed to those who will appreciate a little extra Christmas cheer. Thank you for your generosity!

🎤 Tauranga Blues Festival – Sunday 15 November 🎷

Enjoy an afternoon of live blues music at Holy Trinity Tauranga, featuring some of New Zealand's finest musicians, including Kokomo, The Mojo 3 and Mike Garner Trio, plus special guests and a Festival Jam.
Tickets: $39 per adult / $165 for a group of five | Free for under-18s
https://www.httvenues.nz/event-details/tauranga-blues-festival-1

This Week Beginning: 16th November 2026

Monday	10:00 am	Lavender Craft Group meet
Wednesday	10:00 am	Mid-week Service of the Word
	2:00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
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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