

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 21st November 2021
OT 34 / Sunday next before Advent
Feast of Christ the King

Dear Friends

This Sunday, the feast of Christ the King, is the last Sunday in the Christian year. It is a feast of ends and beginnings: the following Sunday we begin our journey through time to eternity once more, with the first Sunday of Advent.

The feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI at a time of increasing fascism in Europe. Among other things, he wanted to remind the totalitarian governments of Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin that Jesus Christ is the only Sovereign King.

At the core of this feast is not secular prestige or economic power but authentic love and a willingness to share the joys and sorrows of life in community. For those of us who are Christian, Christ is our spiritual King who rules by truth and love. The Cross is his throne. We declare our loyalty to him by the quality of our Christian commitment, expressed in our serving of others with sacrificial and forgiving love, and by our solidarity with the poor. For his citizens there is one all-encompassing law: *'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength...and you shall love your neighbour as yourself'*. Christ's love is selfless, compassionate, forgiving and unconditional. He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: freeing us from all types of bondage, enabling us to live peacefully and happily on earth, and promising us the inheritance of eternal life.

The Feast of Christ the King may bring to mind images of Christ enthroned in Glory, seated high above all rule and authority, one before whom every knee shall bow. But alongside such images we also remember that he is also the hidden King, hidden beneath the rags and even in the flesh of his poor here on earth. Here is the sonnet *Christ the King* by the priest, poet Malcolm Guite which captures something of this dichotomy.

Our King is calling from the hungry furrows
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,
Our soundtracks drown his murmur: 'I am thirsty'.
He stands in line to sign in as a stranger
And seek a welcome from the world he made,
We see him only as a threat, a danger,
He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.
And if he should fall sick then we take care
That he does not infect our private health,
We lock him in the prisons of our fear
Lest he unlock the prison of our wealth.
But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing
The praises of our hidden Lord and King.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 21st NOVEMBER 2021

Sentence

Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

Revelation 5:12

Collect

**Majestic God,
ruler of all creation,
your kingdom is not of this world.
Christ revealed a new truth.**

**Raise up truth in our lives,
that as your people we may see your glory,
sing your praises, and live a new way.
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 *Daniel 7.9-10,13-14*

2nd Reading *Revelation 1.4b-8*

Gospel *John 18.33-37*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Anglican Church in South East Asia and for the faculty and students of St John's Theological College.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Sandi H, Colin

ADVENT (*Assuming restrictions similar to present.*)

Advent Service of Reflection: Sunday 5th December

5.00 pm in church

7.00 pm via Zoom

Advent Conversations *The Art of Advent*

Wednesday 8th and Wednesday 15th December

Discussion sessions are usually in church at 11.00am and 7.00pm. At present, it is not clear whether this will be possible. It may be that one session is offered in church and one via Zoom. So we can decide whether to proceed, please let the Vicar or Parish Administrator know if you are interested in attending and whether you would prefer (a) morning or afternoon (b) in church or via Zoom.

REMEMBRANCE TREE OF LIGHT

Sponsor a light in memory of a departed loved one and support *St John New Zealand (Ambulance Services)* and the *Church Hall Facilities Upgrade Fund*. A beautiful, lighted tree will stand in church from Sunday 28 November and through the Christmas period. Names of loved ones remembered will be displayed around the *Tree*. *Application forms are available in the foyer, from the Parish Office and on the website.*

This Week Beginning: 22nd November

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Vestry Meeting in the Lounge
Wednesday	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Mid-week Service of the Word SAYGo in the Hall
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 28th November

Advent Sunday

8.30 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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