

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 23 February 2025

Liturgy: p.456

OT 7

Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Greetings:

Today's gospel is one that is particularly difficult to put into effect ... but it's perhaps the most important; "forgive others, as you would like to be forgiven." If you've ever endured the pain and indignity of crime or violence inflicted on you or someone you love, you will know the feeling of powerlessness and injustice that comes with it. It's very difficult early on to contemplate letting go of that hurt and turning it into love for an offender. In some ways we want our hurt to continue so that we can feel justified in sustaining our anger and pain.

But think for a moment ... that's precisely how we make our loving Lord and Father feel when we sin. Every sin we commit is only ever against Him. He made us to love Him and love each other, in a way that leaves us free to live our lives to the very best extent possible ... way more joyfully and completely than we can imagine.

Forgiveness is not forgetting. Forgiveness is not excusing or condoning. Forgiveness is letting go the hurt and injustice we feel, so that our loving of others can begin again and our relationship with the Father can be restored. It also allows the offender to lay down the shame that prevents them from starting again ... to love others the way they are loved.

Shalom, *Tony*

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 23 February 2025

Sentence:

Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. You will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. *Luke 6:35*

Collect:

Grant us Jesus, that tender, indestructible love which asks forgiveness of its executioners, and gives hope to the thief on the cross. Keep us compassionate when the way is hard, and gentle with those who oppose us; for the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

OT Reading

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

NT Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50

Gospel

Luke 6: 27-38

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and for the people of the West Rotorua Parish and their Ministry Support Team.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Hazel, Lawrence, Lynda.

We pray for the departed, Bob, his family and all those who mourn him.

Parish AGM – Sunday 9 March

Our AGM will be held in church on Sunday 9 March. We will celebrate our life together as a parish in 2024 and look forward to the future. *In preparation for the AGM nominations for Vestry are sought – nomination forms are available in the foyer.*

Evensong

Evensong will be held at Wesley Church on Sunday 2 March. All singers welcome. Rehearsal starts at 2.00 pm. Everybody welcome to the service which starts at 4.00 pm. For more details and music, see Vaughan Chetwynd.

Lenten Study

Our Lenten study this year is a six-week session look at the Book of Revelation. It starts on Wednesday 12 March at 11am. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church. There won't be an evening session this year as it clashes with Alpha, but if you want a study guide just let Tony know.

This Week Beginning: 24 February

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| Tuesday | 12.00 pm | Funeral for Bob Harvey |
| Wednesday | 10.00 am | Mid-week Eucharist |
| | 2.00 pm | SAYGO in the hall |
| | 6.30 pm | Alpha course in the lounge |
| Friday | 9.00 am | Senior Chef |
| Op Shop | 10.00 am - 4.00 pm | Monday to Friday |
| | 10.00 am - 1pm | Saturday |
| Playgroup | 9.30 - 11.30 am | Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday |
| Toy Library | 9.30 - 11.30 am | Thursday, Saturday |

Service for Sunday 2 March –
9.30 am Holy Communion

Contact Us

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