

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

## **St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai**



**Sunday, 30 March 2025**

*Liturgy: p.456*

*Lent 4*

*Psalm 32*

### *Greetings:*

Last week's gospel was a stark reminder that there's nothing new under the sun, we have endured both natural and man-made disasters since time began, and yet our challenge and our reward still endures. ABp Michael Curry, a former primate of the USA, has a lovely way of putting it "*we are prophets of a future not our own*" in other words, we have no control over what is to come but we do have a clear mission in it ... so, best we fit our shoulders to the wheel and look happy about it.

This week the message is similarly counter-cultural, even if we in the Western Hemisphere miss much of the story. One son, who wishes his father were dead, leaves home to live a profligate life of hedonistic pleasure (until the money runs out), while the other lives a life of servitude and obedience, but in a state of disgruntlement. One son learns by personal experience the magnitude of the mistake he has made and comes to seek some form of redemption, even if as a slave in his father's service, while the other resents the affront to his culture and his family, and resents his father's grace and forgiveness, because of the shame the other son has "brought upon the family."

Put in these terms, it might be difficult to decide which of the two you identify with. That's because it's the father who is the central figure in this story ... the loving and redeeming father, who is prepared to surrender everything to win back even one who is lost, and who, on seeing the lost one return ... surrenders everything again to welcome him home.

Grace and peace, *Tony*

### **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 30 March 2025**

#### **Sentence:**

God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.                      *2 Corinthians 5:18*

#### **Collect:**

**We praise You Father God, that the light of Christ shines in our darkness and is never overcome; show us the way we must go to eternal day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**OT Reading**                      *Joshua 5: 9-12*

**NT Reading**                      *1 Corinthians 10: 1-13*

**Gospel**                              *Luke 15: 1-3; 11b-32*

#### **Prayers of the People**

Today we give thanks for and celebrate the Five Marks of Mission, and we pray for the people of Christian World Service.

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

### **Foodbank**

As we lead up to Easter some treats for children for Easter would be welcomed by Foodbank. Your support of this important cause is greatly appreciated.

### **Office Closed**

Erica will be on leave Wednesday 2 April so the office will be closed.

### **Power Outage**

Mercury has advised that there will be a power outage affecting the church premises on Thursday from 9:15 am to 3:15pm. The office and church will be open from 8am to 11am but Playgroup and the Toy Library will be closed.

### **Safeguarding Training**

If you were unable to attend the Safeguarding Training last year new sessions are available for you to attend at Holy Trinity: Level 1, 10 May 9.30am and Level 2, 11 May 1.00pm. Note: only Clergy and Vestry are required to attend Level 2. If you wish to attend please let Lynda or Erica know.

### **This Week Beginning: 31 March**

**Wednesday** 10.00 am Mid-week Eucharist  
11.00 am Lenten Study  
2.00 pm SAYGO in the hall  
6.30 pm Alpha course in the lounge

**Op Shop** 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday to Friday  
10.00 am - 1pm Saturday  
**Playgroup** 9.30 - 11.30 am Tuesday, Wednesday  
**Toy Library** 9.30 - 11.30 am Tuesday, Saturday

**Service for Sunday 6 April –**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

### **Contact Us**

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