

Welcome! Haere mai!

## St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 28 July 2024

OT 17

### Greetings:

This week the Royal Commission into Abuse in State and Faith Based Care released its final report to Government. Today we will read a statement from our Archbishops about this matter. It will suffice to say that we the Church (broadly and collectively) have a lot to answer for in our history. More importantly from our point of view, our Anglican Church has decided that “enough is enough”, we are changing our practice to make sure it doesn’t happen again. It was never OK ... and it never will be.

On a more positive note, today’s message is the only miracle that is recounted in all four gospels. Perhaps not surprisingly then, we go to the fourth gospel’s longer and more detailed version of it, presuming that its author was familiar with Mark’s account. There are all sorts of approaches to this message, but the logistics of it astound me. Mark says that Jesus had people sit in groups of 100’s and 50’s, and that He tasked the disciples to set the food before them; he also observes that the number assembled was 5,000 “men.” Were there 150 groups of people to be served by the twelve disciples? But then ... we simply cannot comprehend how five loaves and two fish might be sufficiently blessed to feed the massive crowd leaving *twelve baskets* of scraps to be collected afterwards!

As usual for the fourth gospel, this story has strong Old Testament links (see especially, Exodus 16 and 2 Kings 4) and reinforces the notion that Jesus is the new Moses and offers us, the new Israel (*the twelve baskets?*) spiritual sustenance for our own *Exodus* from captivity to freedom. God is good indeed!

Grace and peace, *Tony*

### **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 28 July 2024**

#### **Sentence:**

'I am the living bread that came down from heaven,' says the Lord. 'Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.' *John 6:51*

#### **Collect:**

**All-seeing God, teach us to be open with You about our needs, to seek Your support in our trials, to admit before You our sins, and to thank You for all Your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**OT Reading** *2 Kings 4: 42-44*

**NT Reading** *Ephesians 3: 14-21*

**Gospel** *John 6: 1-21*

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

Today we pray for the Bricks for Life programme in Ethiopia, and for the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

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

### **This Week Beginning: 29 July**

<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo
<b>Thursday</b>	1.00 pm	Books and Friends
<b>Friday</b>	9.00 am	Senior Chef
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
<b>Playgroup</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
<b>Toy Library</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

### **Service for Sunday 4 August –**

9.30 am Holy Communion

### **Contact Us**

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