



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 23 February 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

Today's theme: "Love Disarms"

Focus Scripture **Matthew 5:38-48**

Other Readings: Psalm 119:33-40



More than a demand, the words in today's readings are a description of how much Jesus, who will give his life, loves us. More than an order, these words are an invitation to live not by the rules of an empire but by the covenant that shapes God's realm. Perfection can feel far away or out of reach. It can also feel as close as a neighbour when they go out of their way for us, or as real as our own actions when we put someone else ahead of ourselves. Are we capable of the kind of patience, love, and forgiveness Jesus describes?

Matthew 5: 38-48 (NIV) The Sermon on the Mount (continued) "

An Eye for an Eye "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love Your Enemies "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

NEXT WEEK:

Sunday Worship: 2 March 2014

Theme: "Attentive to Mystery and Prophecy"

Focus Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

Other Readings: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21

March Rosters: The rosters for March will be sent out on 25 February.

Prayer Points: Please pray for: Laurel Leach with her medical concerns whilst in hospital; Ray Chisholm with his illness; Bob Corbett and his family with the loss of Bob's father. The John family with the passing of their Father and Grandfather Augustine who passed away on Tuesday, prayers for their family with losing their Mum and Dad and Sister so close together.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Update on Joy Rzoska... Joy is now living in the hospital care facility of Summerset in the Park on Flat Bush School Road. Her room number is 21. For postal address it is:- Joy Rzoska, C/o 'Summerset', 7 Flat Bush School Road, Auckland, 2016. Please call Julie if you wish to know more.

Anglican TV :- "History tells us that the Treaty of Waitangi suffered in its execution. But it is our Treaty, our starting point. The more we come to understand its imperfections the more we see ourselves, our raw dreams and hopes. This week on www.anglicantv.net you can view "Waitangi Day in Paeroa"

Middlemore: The dates for this year's Middlemore visits are May 18 and October 19. Please put them in your diary and I will put a reminder in the notices a few weeks prior. Thank you.

Real Life: -This Sunday night (23rd February) John Cowan's guest will be events promoter, **Dean Lonergan**

Date Claimer!! – Family Camp!! Manukau District Family Camp is on again from 14th to 16th March 2014, at the wonderful Camp Morley. Mark this weekend in your diary, and start preparing for a fun time with friends from all over the district. Rego forms with the costs are available now, and further information will be sent out shortly. Any Questions? Contact your local representative or the committee on camp@sdcs.co.nz.

St Andrews, Symonds Street, are planning a music service with Jules Riding for the 5 pm Contemporary Service to be held on Sunday March 23 bringing the Word in Song. Young and all interested people from other churches are invited to come and share with us and we would appreciate if this can be circulated. Jules Riding is a Christian singer/music minister here in NZ. He has released 11 albums (3 of which are Gold here in NZ), and won two NZ Music Awards. For more information You can go to www.elkanah.org.nz/presskit

State of St John's financial position at the 31/01/2014

	Month of January 2014		1 July 2013 → 31 January 2014	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	13,546.94	15,652.00	102,466.12	117,751.00
INCOME	12,662.41	14,977.00	105,905.03	110,151.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	(884.53)	(675.00)	3,438.91	(7,600.00)

Comments (January):

- “Free Will Offerings” for the month of January **fell short of Budget by (\$1,668.97).**
- “Free Will Offerings” for the seven months [year to-date] **are short of Budget by (\$8,130.12).**
- As at the 31st of January we had managed to clear all outstanding invoices and to return \$500.00 of the \$1,000.00 borrowed from the Roof Fund at the end of December to assist with cash flow at that time.

Please continue to pray for an improvement in our immediate financial situation while continuing to give thanks to our wondrously gracious LORD for the gifts that he bestows upon us here at St Johns.