



**St Johns**  
*Being the Gospel to all People*

---

---

**22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Greetings**

**A reflection on  
reading: Mark 10:46-52**

**Updates**

**&Zoom link**

---

**Greetings my friends.**

## **Supporting the work of the Breakfast Club**

The needs of the communities around us are growing as Covid is accelerating and the economic downturn affects people's ability to provide the basic necessities of life. We would invite you to respond to this need through the Breakfast Club.

The Breakfast Club started in 2010 by Steve Farrelly, an ex-Detective Sergeant in the NZ Police. It started in one decile-1 school with eight children. A year later they were feeding 70 children before school each day. What started in Randwick Park School now also works in 6 other schools across East and South Auckland. Since then, the Breakfast Club Kids has worked as a grass roots organisation listening to the issues in the community and working alongside multiple partners to find ways of meeting the needs of these communities. They run a Food Bank, donate appliances and furniture, run cooking classes, supply sports equipment and shoes, provide 3000 shoe-box Christmas presents each year, provide personal sanitary products for young women, run fitness events and much, much more. They can only do this through the financial and in-kind support of many people.

Sami Smart has written a detailed account of the work of the Breakfast Club from her own experience. If you want to read Sami's account of the work of the Breakfast Club then please email Liz Speer at [espeer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:espeer@xtra.co.nz) or Mavis Haigh at [tandm.haigh@gmail.com](mailto:tandm.haigh@gmail.com)

The Breakfast Club motto is "Find a Need and Fill it ... Find a Hurt and Heal it." So, what can we do to help achieve this motto? Breakfast club is only able to exist

---

because of food and monetary donations so this remains the number 1 best way of supporting the work that Breakfast Club is doing. Matthew 25:35-40 34-36 is a guiding scripture.

We would like to suggest that we support the organisation's work by donating money and believe this should be done through St Johns so we can then see it as a visible work for God outside ourselves. In no way does this cut across our All Saints food donations. Time is of the essence as the need is NOW and is escalating.

Bucklands Beach Cooperating Parish 03-0166-0135407-00 is the operating account into which donations can be made for the Breakfast Club. Those who give by direct credit pay into 03-0166-0135407-25. In both cases the donor will need to reference 'Breakfast Club' so it is clear that the donation is to be sent on to the Breakfast Club.

Thank you to Mavis, Liz and Sami for taking time to put this write up together. I would like to encourage us to strongly consider participating in this initiative. Paul writes in second Corinthians – thanking Achaia province for their relief offering to those in need, he writes,

“I want you to have all the time you need to make this offering in your own way. I don't want anything forced or hurried at the last minute.

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

---

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,

He throws caution to the winds,  
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.  
His right-living, right-giving ways  
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

---

## A Reflection on the reading: Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup> *By that time*, they had reached Jericho; as they passed through the town, a crowd of people followed along. They came to a blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, who sat beside the *main* road. <sup>47</sup> When he was told that Jesus of Nazareth was passing in that throng, he called out in a loud voice.

**Bartimaeus:** Jesus, Son of David, take pity on me and help me!

Disgusted by the blind man's public display, others in the crowd tried to silence him *until the Master passed*.

**Some of the Crowd:** <sup>48</sup> Be quiet. Shush.

**Bartimaeus** (*still louder*): Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped where He stood. *The crowd stopped with Him*. He told those *near the front of the crowd* to call the blind man forward.

**Some of the Crowd** (*to Bartimaeus*): Good news! *Jesus has heard you. Listen—He calls for you. Get up and go to Him*.

<sup>50</sup> Bartimaeus cast aside his *beggar's* robe and stepped forward, *feeling his way* toward Jesus.

**Jesus:** <sup>51</sup> What do you want from Me?

**Bartimaeus:** Teacher, I want to see.

**Jesus:** <sup>52</sup> Your faith has made you whole. Go in peace.

In that moment, Bartimaeus could see again; and from that time on, he followed Jesus.

---

There are two questions that I would like us to wrestle with following this reading.

1. Who is actually blind in this story?
2. What do you make of the miracle stories in the New Testament, especially the healing stories? Should we read them as metaphors for spiritual healing and renewal? Should we take them literally, but only as unique 1st century proofs of Jesus's deity? Should we regard them as myths from a pre-scientific era? Or should we believe that miraculous healings continue to this day, and that God's children have every right to pray for them, expect them, and proclaim them?

---

## Update

The Parish Council decided to invite our community to give a farewell gift for Shania Qui. This will be presented to her once we are able to meet again in person. The donation is to be directed to 00 account and marked 'Farewell gift for Shania'.

The youth leaders are designing hoodies for St Johns. It began as a Holiday Programme project. But then it turned into a community building initiative. If you would like to make an order, please find the order form on our website

<https://stjohnsbb.org.nz/st-johns-hoodies/>

<https://stjohnsbb.org.nz/community-camp/>

Here is the **Sunday morning** zoom invite:

Jeff is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9895548740?pwd=VFduaXNJWCtJYnErZfVJME1NUm9JQT09>

Meeting ID: 989 554 8740

Passcode: 7777777