



*St John's*  
Being the Gospel to all People

**Sunday**  
**27 March 2022**

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.

*Never Trust a Spiritual  
Leader Who Cannot Dance*

**Scripture readings: Luke 15:11-32 The Message**



... 20-21 "When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

22-24 "But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!' And they began to have a wonderful time...

31-32 "His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

**Next Sunday: 3 April 2022**

**Theme: Gracious Ministries**

**Scripture readings:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;  
Philippians 3:4-14; **John 12:1-8**

**Prayer points for:** a full recovery for all in our community testing positive with Omicron; for the safety of all frontline workers at our borders, in health, emergency and essential services during the pandemic; and for peace in Ukraine.

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### **Connecting with life**

Reflect on times or stories of leaving and returning (you, a sibling, a child, a friend).

**Q What calls us away from our roots, culture, family, friends?**

**Q What calls us back?**

Reflect on this quote by Robert Frost: "Home is the place where when you have to go there, they have to let you in."

**Q What is "home" for you?**

### **Scripture**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32** There are questions as to how this parable would have been received by Jesus' listeners.

There were tax collectors and sinners and also scribes and Pharisees in the crowd of this parable.

**Q How do you think each group might have heard this story, and what message would they have derived from it?**

**Q With what character do you think they wished to be identified?**

**Q What do you think it means to "come to ourselves"? (Luke 15:17)**

The parable does not tell how things worked out for the two brothers.

**Q What do you think it would take for the two brothers to become reconciled?**

### **Connecting scripture and life**

If we are seeking an example to follow, it is surely that of the parent who shows a generosity of spirit that is willing to overcome huge disappointment and hurt. For all the trouble families face, for all the pain experienced by those who are cut off or who cut themselves off from wider society, the key is good relationships that are transformative.

**THIS WEEK 27 – 3 April 2022**

**Sunday 27 March:** 9.30 am  
Service in English and Mandarin

**Monday 28 March**  
Space Programme for new parents and their babies

**Thursday 31 March**  
3.15 – 4.15 pm MusiqHub  
(foyer)

**Friday 1 April**  
9.15 am – noon Knitting Group  
(foyer)

**Friday 1 April**  
Youth Group meeting via Zoom

**Sunday 3 April** 9.30 Service in  
English and Mandarin  
**Clocks move backwards 1 hour**

Q What are some examples, close to home or further afield, that speak of transforming relationships where people act in ways least expected but most needed?

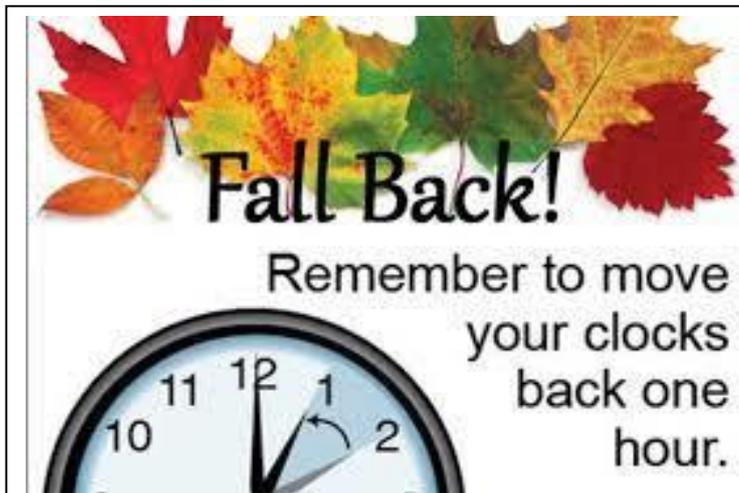
Q In what situations and in what ways might we, individually and as the church, demonstrate love that restores and reconciles?

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### IMPORTANT

From 11.59 pm tonight, Friday 25 March we no longer need to display a QR code nor have sign-in sheets. From 4 April we no longer need to check vaccine passes.

As more people in our community test positive with Covid please be alert for symptoms. Get tested and self-isolate if positive. Let the office know, so we can organise help if needed.



Daylight saving  
ends this Sunday  
at 3 am.

### HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm**

**Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 9:30 am Service**

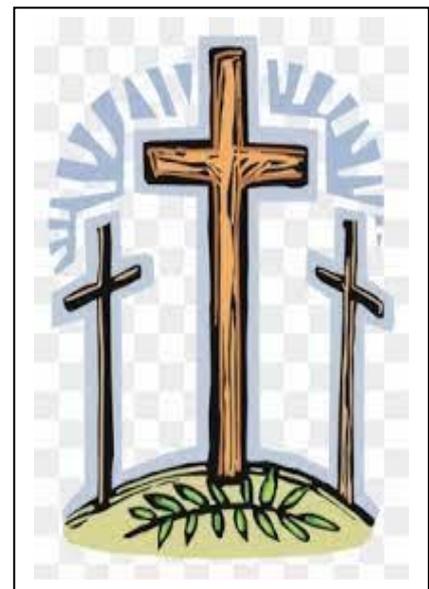
**Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 9.30 am Service**

*Prayer Art Installation*

**7 Last Statements of Jesus**

Opens 4 – 8.30 pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Also available 9 am – 4 pm Friday and Saturday



Sunday Services: English / Mandarin 9:30a.m.  
 Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9:00am – 2:00pm, Fri 9am-11am  
 Phone: 534 2305 Email: [office@stjohnsbb.org.nz](mailto:office@stjohnsbb.org.nz)  
 Website: <https://stjohnsbb.org.nz>

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Administrator	Alison Stanton	534 2305
Property Manager	Daniel Smart	027 554 2309
People's Warden	Julie Dickey	535 5814
Minister's Warden	Daniel Smart	027 554 2309
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	274 8534
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	274 8534

**Youth Group:** Contact Jeff 022 674 0044 [minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz](mailto:minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz)

	<b>This Week's Helpers (27 March )</b>	<b>Next Week's Helpers (03 April)</b>
Preacher	Ref Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician	Joan Williamson	Albert Ip
Projector	Jed Stanton	Alison Stanton
Sound Desk	Daniel Smart	Collin Francke
Reader	Felicity Vincer	David Hall
Intercessor	Bob Williamson	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	N/A	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
HC Serving team	N/A	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Prayer ministry	Could you help?	Joan Rutherford
Welcome Desk	Joan Rutherford	Betty Curd
Ushers	Trevor and Mavis Haigh	Derek Speer, Liz Speer
Counters	Bob Williamson, Jeanette Li	Derek Speer, Nessie Crawford