



St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

**Sunday
29 May 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.

Baptism

Scripture readings: Acts 16: 16-34



...²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Next Sunday: 05 June 2022

Theme: Pentecost

Scripture readings: Acts 2:1-21

Prayer points for: peace in Ukraine; good health for Brenda; for a full recovery for those in hospital and all in our community testing positive for Covid.

Connecting with life

There are many stories of people who have faced imprisonment and abuse because of their beliefs. Some are headline-makers such as Nelson Mandela, but many more are unknown. These are the people who hold deep beliefs without the glare of media or campaigns.

- **What are some recent stories of people imprisoned or ostracized because of their political or religious beliefs?**

There are other stories, perhaps not often told, of people trafficked or unfair social welfare programs or sweatshops. Consider situations where you have felt the pull of responding to the suffering or oppression of another.

- **What was your response, and how easy or hard was that?**

Scripture

Acts 16:16–34

A movement from being held captive to being set free runs through this passage. Paul and Silas are not the only characters in the story.

- **What are the chains that bind the other characters?**
- **In what ways and from what are they liberated?**

Held in the innermost cell and with feet fastened in chains, escape seems impossible. But even before the earthquake, Paul and Silas act in freedom. They pray and sing.

- **How do rituals and worship enable you to face difficulties with hope as they did for Paul and Silas in Acts 16:16–34?**
- **When have you felt like singing in the face of danger?**
- **When have you seen Christians experiencing or expressing joy in the face of challenging the powers of the world?**

THIS WEEK 29 May – 5 June

Sunday 29 May

9.30 am Infant Baptism and Communion Service in English and Mandarin

Monday 30 May

10 am Space programme (Worship Room)

Thursday 2 June

3.15 pm MusiqHub (foyer)

Friday 3 June

9.15 am – noon Knitting Group (gallery)

7 pm Youth Group (upstairs community hall)

Sunday 5 June

9.30 am Communion Service in English and Mandarin
FOOD BANK SUNDAY

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Covid is still present in the community. Please remain vigilant for symptoms.

Wear masks when attending church.

Stay at home if you are unwell. If you or a member of your household tests positive for Covid and you need to self-isolate, let Alison at the Parish Office know if you need assistance.

BAPTISM SERVICE – Sunday 29 May

This Sunday there will be an infant baptism of Isabella Ralph.

Contributions to make morning tea extra special would be welcome.



WINTER PJ APPEAL

The annual Winter PJ Appeal of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children is underway. Donations of new pyjamas will be distributed to families in need in order to keep children warm and snug in the coming months.

Contributions of pyjamas can be placed in the box in the foyer until 26 June. These will be delivered to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children office in Glen Innes.

Study Theology at the University of Otago

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers many opportunities for the study of Theology, Biblical Studies, Church History, Ministry, and Pastoral Theology (including Chaplaincy). You can study either on-campus or across Aotearoa New Zealand through our distance study programme. We are committed to serving Christian communities throughout the country.

Semester 2 starts on July 11th and new enrolments are due by June 25th.

For details of papers go to: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/>

To enrol go to <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/>

To keep up to date, like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/theologyotago

Parish Finances

Now we are slowly coming back to something like normal regarding Covid and the departure of many of the Mandarin speaking members of the congregation the Parish Council and Finance Team thought it would be helpful to give an update on where we are financially.

Overall, we continue to just hold our own with a small surplus some months and a small deficit some months. We continue to receive the monthly rent from the Kindergarten which is essential to our financial viability.

As Jeff has already talked about we have applied to the Northern Presbytery for funding for a Community Lay Pastor to continue and expand our outreaches into the community. If we are successful, we will need to make a contribution to the overall cost of about \$500 per month in the first year.

The Financial Team is working on a budget for the next financial year beginning in July.

We will keep you informed on progress.

	This Week's Helpers (29 May)	Next Week's Helpers (5 June)
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician	Winnie Wong	Rahil John
Projector	Alison Stanton	Alicia Odhiambo
Sound Desk	Daniel Smart	Jeff will set up
Reader	Alison Stanton	TBA
Intercessor	Julie Dickey	Julie Dickey
HC set up	Alison Stanton	Jeff Odhiambo
HC Serving team	Jeff Odhiambo, Alison Stanton	Jeff Odhiambo
Prayer ministry	Could this be you?	Could this be you?
Welcome Desk	An opportunity to serve here.	An opportunity to serve here.
Ushers	Alison Stanton	Nessie Crawford
Counters	Nessie Crawford, David Hall	Christo John, Nessie Crawford
Morning Tea	Julie Dickey, Alison Stanton	Julie Dickey, Uraiwan Jolly