



St John's
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
1-Jan-2023

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.

Theme: Showing Forth

Scripture reading: Matthew 2:13-23 New International Version



On Epiphany we celebrate the good news of the coming of God, the Son for the whole earth, an extravagant gift of joy-filled love. Epiphany is associated with the coming of the Magi, that is, with the appearance of Christ to the Gentiles.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Sunday 8-Jan-2023

Theme: TBC

Scripture readings: Matthew 3:13-17

Prayer points:

- For Judy McDonald and family
- For members who are sick as COVID is still prevalent
- For Brenda's health
- For peace to be restored in Ukraine.
- For Joan Rutherford to have wisdom to weigh heavy decisions.

Message from Minister

Hello, my friends. Happy New Year. It is the beginning of the new calendar year, also it is the beginning of Epiphany. Just as Advent culminates in Christmas, Christmas culminates in Epiphany, which means "*manifestation*" or "*showing forth*". On Epiphany we celebrate the good news of the coming of God the Son for the whole earth, an extravagant gift of joy-filled love. Epiphany is associated with the coming of the Magi, that is, with the appearance of Christ to the Gentiles.

The Story of the Magi is told in our gospel reading today. Our gospel reading also accounts the murder of the Bethlehem children in 2:16-18. The chapter is carefully constructed as a single unit. Our reading mentions specific geographical locations and exposes Herod as a persistent but unsuccessful opponent of God's purposes.

The first geographical location mentioned is Bethlehem, the place where the birth of Jesus occurs. Bethlehem of Judea is significant because this was the place where the ruler of Israel was to come. The angel then warns Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt. The reader cannot help recalling the sojourn of the earlier Joseph in Egypt – Egypt is a place of refuge and protection.

Again, the angel at the death of Herod directs Joseph in a dream to return from Egypt to "the land of Israel". When the brutality of Archelaus poses further threat, the angel directs them to Nazareth. The careful geographical mapping of the narrative highlights the divine protection of the family. Three times within our gospel reading an angel speaks to Joseph, albeit in a dream, directing the family to avoid the threat of Herod and his son. God is watchfully present in the narrative, guiding and protecting them along an incredibly significant journey.

The gospel reading manifests or shows forth that no one can deter God's plan in Jesus. This simple words in the passage "Herod died" indicates the end of such powers, the end of their plotting and scheming, the end of their charades and brutality.

THIS WEEK

From: 1-Jan-2023

To: 8-Jan-2023

Sunday 1-Jan-2023

Food Bank collection
9:30 am Holy Communion
Service in English/ Mandarin

Wednesday 4-Jan-2023

N/A

Thursday 5-Jan-2023

Musiqhub - term break

Friday 6-Jan-2023

No Knitting Group
No Youth Group

Sunday 8-Jan-2023

9.30 am Service in English/
Mandarin



Thanksgiving 2023

Total Thanksgiving offerings collected between November &
December 2022

\$5,720

Direct credit offerings to Bucklands Beach Cooperating Parish
03-0166-0135407-25

Dear God, we are thankful

**Stay vigilant &
SAFEGUARD EACH OTHER**

**When feeling unwell,
stay home and take
rest**

Wear a facemask when needed



Finance Report for November 2022

Regular Income

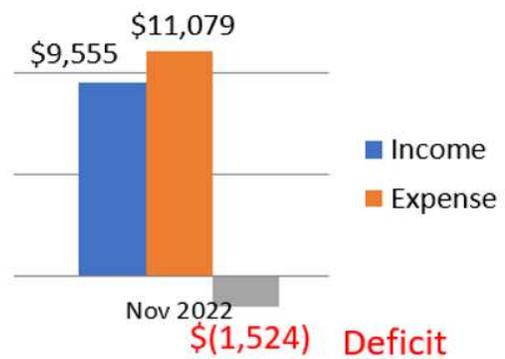
Offering Income \$4,531.97;
Rental and interest Income \$5023.14;

Expenses \$11,078.94

Deficit in Nov: \$1,523.83

Note: Special Income and Expenditure in Nov 2022

Thanksgiving Offering Income: \$4,320.00
Auditor's fee (once a year): \$2,712.45



Upstairs refrigerator contains foods that are expired/ going to expire. Please claim and bring home if they belong to you. Leftover items will be removed on 26 Jan 2023 (Thursday)

Friday night Youth Group - 2023 Roster Will Be Available in Jan 2023 Stay Tuned

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Winnie Wong	534 2305
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	027 325 6097
People's Warden	Julie Dickey	535 5814
Minister's Warden	TBA	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	274 8534
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	274 8534

Youth Group: Contact Jeff 022 674 0044 minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	Today's Helpers 1-Jan-2023	Next Week's Helpers 8-Jan-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	TBC
Musician/s	Joan Williamson Winnie Wong	Allyce Chan, Jeanette Li Dimock Albert Ip, Winnie Wong
Projector	Alison Stanton	Henry Turner
Sound Desk	N/A	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Alison Stanton	Michelle Cao
Intercessor	Bob Williamson	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	Alison Stanton	N/A
HC Serving team	Grace Corbett	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Could this be you?
Sunday School	Could this be you?	Could this be you?
Welcome Desk	Could this be you?	Joan Rutherford
Usher	N/A	Alison Stanton
Counters	Jeanette Li	Jeanette Li
	Albert Ip	Albert Ip
Morning Tea	Alison Stanton Winnie Wong	Betty Curd Joan Jones