



Sunday
22-Oct-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.

Imago Dei – Imago Caesar

Scripture reading: Matthew 22:15-22 (New International Version)

IMAGO DEI – IMAGO CAESAR



Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹ “Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So, they left him and went away.

Sunday

29-Oct-2023

THIS WEEK

Theme: TBC

From: 22-Oct-2023

Scripture readings: Matthew 22:34-46

To: 29-Oct-2023

Prayer points:

- For peace and restoration of stability in Ukraine and other regions experiencing unrest;
- For Jane's health;
- For Brenda's health;
- For Felicity's recovery;
- For violence and crime to be subdued in our country.
- For those who have had major surgery and are recovering at home;
- For support for all those who have lost loved ones, homes and/or livelihoods in the recent natural disasters.

Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

It was a profound privilege to officiate Meryl Rhynd funeral. Meryl was a remarkable and great woman. Her influence and legacy were expressed beautifully in the eulogy and tribute shared by her son Warren and grandsons. We pray for God's peace and grace to the Rhynds family and friends.

This is week's gospel reading is the case of "heads I win, tails you lose". It appears to be a battle of statements masquerading as questions. The true intentions are hidden, and only implicitly revealed. Beyond the content of the answers being obvious, the very syntaxes of the answers are dictated by the syntaxes of the questions.

There is more to the gospel reading than simply the answer "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." The other parts are critical to a serious grappling with the meaning of the gospel reading. In this week's gospel reading Jesus seems to evade the questions in order to address the concerns that lay below the surface. Is Jesus' answer concern the division that exist between the State and Church? Is Jesus equating God and Caesar? Or is there something more profound Jesus is attempting to reveal?

I suspect the latter. Jesus' answer should ring some bells for this Jewish audience, because the very first chapters of their Scriptures correspondence with Jesus's answer. Their Scriptures tell them that humanity was made in the image of God. Imago Dei – Imago Caesar. In effect Jesus is telling them that they can give the coin to Caesar, but they themselves belong to God.

Sunday 22-Oct-2023

9.30 am Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Monday 23-Oct-2023

N/A

Tuesday 24-Oct-2023

N/A

Wednesday 25-Oct-2023

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 26-Oct-2023

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 27-Oct-2023

10:00 am Knitting Group
6:45 pm Youth Group

Sunday 29-Oct-2023

9.30 am Holy Communion Sunday
Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Songs for Today

1. Open your eyes
2. Be still
3. He has brought us this far by His grace
4. Love Divine



Coffee & Chat

31 Oct (Tue)

10:00 am till noon

Bring a friend !



SAVE THE DAY

If you missed the last Working Bee in July,
here is your opportunity! !

Don't miss it again.

November 18 (Saturday)

9:00am - noon



LABOUR DAY

All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity - Martin Luther King, Jr



Labour Day Parade in Dunedin in 1890
(Alexander Turnbull Library)

Resource:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc36ucpw>

New Zealand workers were among the first in the world to claim the right to an eight-hour day. As early as 1840 the carpenter Samuel Parnell famously won an eight-hour day in Wellington. The provision was soon extended to other centres, but it was a custom, not a legal entitlement, and only applied to some groups of workers. The establishment of Labour Day reflected the growing influence of New Zealand's trade union movement in the 1880s and its efforts to improve employment conditions for all workers.

Labour Day celebrates when the eight hour working day and the 48 hour working week became the law in New Zealand in 1899.

Friday evening Youth Group - 6:45 p.m.



Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 09 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Winnie Wong	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
People's Warden	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	

Youth Group: Contact Jeff minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	Today's Helpers 22-Oct-2023	Next Week's Helpers 29-Oct-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Joan Williamson Winnie Wong	Jeanette Li Dimock Albert Ip, Winnie Wong
Projector & Sound Desk	Mavis Haigh	Michael Zhao
Reader	Felicity Vincer	Mavis Haigh
Intercessor	Bob Williamson	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	N/A	Ayleen de Vilder
HC Serving team	N/A	Joan Rutherford
Prayer ministry	Joan Jones	Judy McDonald
Sunday School	An opportunity to serve here	An opportunity to serve here
Welcome Desk	Ayleen de Vilder	An opportunity to serve here
Usher	Charles de Vilder	Nessie Crawford
Counters	Charles de Vilder Bob Williamson	Jeanette Li Dimock Albert Ip
Morning Tea	Jeanette Li Jojo Lee	Miranda Huang Grace Tay