



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

Full Month Newsletter  
January 2024

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St Johns. Morning tea is offered after the service, so please stay and enjoy.

Happy New Year



Seasons greetings, friends who love St Johns,

As the year begins, I have a couple of questions for us to reflect on. What difference does Christmas (and by Christmas, I mean Christ coming into your life) make? What motivates you? In other words, what is it that compels you?

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21:

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. <sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What Paul is saying is that it is the love of Christ that motivates us. Also, because Christ has come and died, everything is different now. We are different, and we engage with reality differently now. We have a different frame of reference and with different set of lenses. We see people differently, we reconcile, and we treat each as image bearers.

Is this your reality to? Is the love of Christ the thing that motivates you? What do you sense is your invitation in the year 2024?

Rev. Jeff Odhiambo

## Reading for 7 Jan 2024

### Scripture reading: Mark 1:4-11 (New Revised Standard Version)



#### **Mark 1:4-11**

<sup>4</sup> so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with [w](#)ater, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

#### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## Reading for 14 Jan 2024

John 1:1-18, Psalm 29 :1-2 (New International Version)

### Theme: The Glory of God Revealed



#### The Word Became Flesh

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

**14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**15** (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") **16** Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

#### A psalm of David.

**1** Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**2** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

Mark 1: 14-20 (New International Version)

Theme: Three Things



**Jesus Announces the Good News**

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !  
HAPPY NEW YEAR !**



*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*

Ephesians 4:31-32

The Julian calendar is the one that was introduced in the year 46 BC by Julius Caesar to all of the Roman Empire, and it is the calendar that was used during the life of Jesus Christ and at the time of the early Church. The Gregorian calendar is the calendar used in most parts of the world. It went into effect in October 1582 following the papal bull *Inter gravissimas* issued by Pope Gregory XIII, which introduced it as a modification of, and replacement for, the Julian calendar

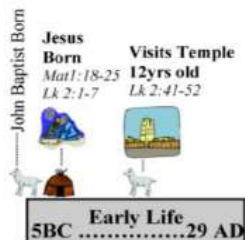
The Gregorian calendar, like the Julian calendar, is a solar calendar with 12 months of 28-31 days each. The year in both calendars consists of 365 days, with a leap day being added to February in the leap years. The months and length of months in the Gregorian calendar are the same as for the Julian calendar.

Source - <https://tinyurl.com/z7ppt6dz>



To be Confirmed - Service Leader: Youth With a Mission (YWAM)

Overview of Jesus' life



Jesus can be placed within the geographic, historical, political and social context of the small area of the Near East where he lived and taught. The story charts the journey of the Holy Family to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born; the flight into Egypt to escape Herod's Massacre of the Innocents; the return from Egypt to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus began his ministry; and finally, the journey of Jesus and his followers to Jerusalem, where he would be crucified by the Romans. Apart from his babyhood in Egypt and a brief sojourn in the Gentile settlements of Tyre and Sidon (now in modern-day Lebanon), Jesus spent the whole of his short life in the narrow strip of land bordering the western shore of the Jordan River, bounded to the north by Galilee and its sea and to the south by Jerusalem. The whole distance from north to south was only about 70 miles (110 km).

Source: *The Bible Atlas* p 260 [2013, Bateman]

What do we know about the Jesus of history?



Virtually everything we know about the Jesus of history comes from the four Gospels, and to a lesser extent from the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of St. Paul. These authors, however, were not writing biography as we understand it, but rhetoric designed to persuade readers of the truth of their belief that Jesus was both human and divine; the Son of Man and the Son of God. Their writings contain scarcely any information about what Jesus was like as a man. What did he look like? What sort of home did he come from? We can speculate about these questions, but we can never know.



Nevertheless, the writings do afford glimpses of the essential humanity of Jesus. The traditional image of the boy Jesus helping Joseph in a humble carpenter's workshop suggests Jesus grew up as the son of an artisan - a skilled workman, but not perhaps a particularly learned man.

Source: *The Bible Atlas*, p261 [2013, Bateman]

# Office Close

between

**1 January 2024**

&

**21 January 2024**



For serious pastoral support, please contact Judy McDonald  
021 057 6327

## Foodbank Collection First Sunday of Each Month

According to the Foodbank website, foodbanks have faced an unprecedented demand for food parcels and are struggling to meet this need.



# Thank you!

## Our Weekly Activities

### Sunday

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

### Monday

1st Monday of each month  
5:30 pm Community Dinner

### Tuesday

2nd Tuesday of each month  
7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

### Wednesday

7:00 pm AA Meeting

### Thursday

First Thursday of each month, 10:30am  
Finance Team Meeting  
3:10 pm Musiqhub

### Friday

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

### Saturday

Irregular  
Working Bee 9:00am - 12:00 pm

Sunday Services:

Office Hours:

Phone: 09 534 2305

Website:

Minister

Administrator

Property Manager

People's Warden

Minister's Warden

Pastoral Care

Prayer Chain

Direct Credit Offerings AC

English 9:30a.m.

Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Email: [office@stjohnsbb.org.nz](mailto:office@stjohnsbb.org.nz)

<https://stjohnsbb.org.nz>

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TBC

Charles de Vilder

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## Holy Communion

Matthew 26:26-28



26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."

28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**Every 1st and 3rd Sunday**

**Coffee & Chat**  
Usually the 3rd Tuesday  
10:00 am till noon  
Bring a friend !



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

**No Gathering During School Holiday**

Contact Rev. Jeff for further information



## Office Administrator

Winnie will be on vacation throughout January. Upon her return in February, she will provide volunteer support remotely via home office to sustain the essential operations of the office until her replacement joins the team.



For any inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Jeff.

## Friday evening Youth Group - School Holiday

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

	Helpers 7-Jan-2024	Helpers 14-Jan-2024
Service Leader	Alicia Odhiambo	Ayleen de Vilder
Musician/s	Joan Williamson	Rahil John
Projector & Sound Desk	Michael Zhao	Alison Stanton
Reader	Felicity Vincer	Olga Ferriera
Intercessor	Bob Williamson	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	N/A	N/A
HC Serving team	N/A	N/A
Prayer ministry	Please help here if required	Joan Rutherford
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Charles de Vilder	Olga Ferreira
Counters	Rob Williamson	Charles de Vilder
	Christo John	Alison Stanton
Morning Tea	Nessie Crawford	Betty Curd
	Alison Stanton	Nessie Crawford

	Helpers 21-Jan-2024	Helpers 28-Jan-2024
Service Leader	Mavis Haigh	YWAM
Musician/s	Rahil John	YWAM
Projector & Sound Desk	Trevor Haigh	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Judy McDonald	YWAM
Intercessor	Elizabeth Speer	YWAM
HC set up	Ayleen de Vilder	N/A
HC Serving team	Judy McDonald	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Jones	Please help here if required
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Judy McDonald	Someone to help here please
Counters	Trevor Haigh	Jeanette Li
	Nessie Crawford	Nessie Crawford
Morning Tea	Jeanette Li	Monita Leung
	Hong-yan Song	Jojo Lee