

Sunday 18-Feb-2024

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.

Beloved

# Scripture reading: Mark 1:9-15 (New International Version)



Source: https://www.unspokenelements.com/blogs/hope/the-lent-season

## The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

#### **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!"

# Sunday 25-Feb-2024

Scripture readings: Mark 1:9-15 (New International Version)

For peace and restoration of stability in Israel, Ukraine and other

# Prayer points:

- 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;
- 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,

Welcome to our first Sunday in the season of Lent. Lent is a season of 40 days of preparation. Time set aside to make us ready to celebrate and receive Christ and his resurrection. It is a season of reflection, examination, a time for honesty, repentance and humility. Jesus before he began his public ministry; Mark says that the Spirit led him into the wilderness for a time of preparation, a season of testing before he began his public ministry.

I believe the reason Mark says Jesus was driven out in the wilderness is because frankly speaking none of us choose to go to the edge of ourselves. Every fibre of our being rebels against this move to the wilderness.

Richard Rohr in his book Falling Upwards says,

"Sooner or later, if you are on any classic "spiritual schedule," some event, person, death, ideas, or relationship will enter your life that you simply cannot deal with, using your present skill set, your acquired knowledge, or your strong willpower. Spiritually speaking you will be, you must be, led to the edge of your private resources. At that point you will stumble over the necessary stumbling stone, as Isaiah calls it; or to state it in the language here, you will, and you must "lose" at something. This is the only way that Life – fate – God – Grace – Mystery can get you to change, let go of your egocentric preoccupations, and go on further and larger journey..."

#### THIS WEEK

From: 18-Feb-2024

To: 25-Feb-2024

#### **Sunday** 18-Feb-2024

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

Monday 19-Feb-2024

N/A

Tuesday 20-Feb-2024

N/A

Wednesday 21-Feb-2024

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 22-Feb-2024

3:10 pm Musiqhub

## Friday 23-Feb-2024

10:00 am Knitting Group7:00 pm Youth Group

### Sunday 25-Feb-2024

9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)

3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

#### He continues:

"There is no practical or compelling reason to leave one's present comfort zone in life. Why should you or would you? Frankly, none of us do unless and until we have to. The invitation probably has to be unexpected and unsought."

Do you hear what Rohr is positing? That there is something in us that resist going to the wilderness. So, life has to push us, force us, drive us, send us, compel us or thrust us into the wilderness, or we will never go.

And so, as your pastor I pray that we'll walk with courage into the wilderness we can't choose or avoid. I pray that our long stretches in the wilderness will teach us who we really are. And I pray that when angels in all their sweet and secret guises whisper "beloved" into our ears, we will listen, and believe them.

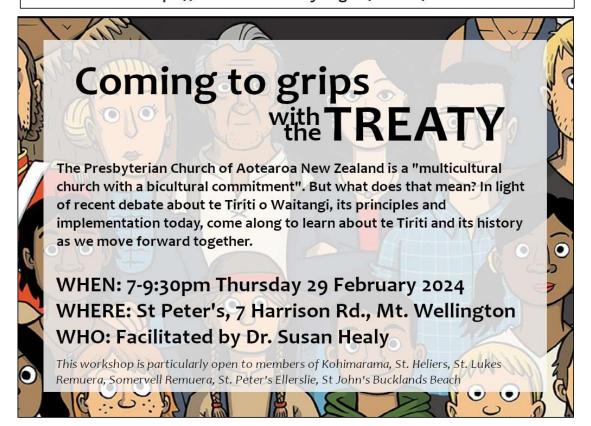




Lent is a significant season in the year for Christians – a time of solemnity and self-reflection where they confess their failings and resolve to live a more godly life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It lasts for just over six weeks leading up to Easter.

In most churches, the first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday.

Source: https://www.christianity.org.uk/article/what-is-lent



# Term 1 - Youth Group - Friday 7:00 pm



# **Songs for Today**

- 1. How Great Thou Art
- 2. Amazing Grace
- 3. Old Rugged Cross
- 4. An Evening Prayer



Sunday Services: English 9:30a.m.

Office Hours: TBC

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

	Today's Helpers	Next Week's Helpers
	18-Feb-2024	25-Feb-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Jeff Odhiambo	Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John	Joan Williamson
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Michael Zhao
Reader	Judy McDonald	Natalie Springveldt
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Bob Williamson
HC set up	Alison Stanton	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	Mavis Haigh
Counters	Jeanette Li	Bob Williamson
	Christo John	Albert Ip
Morning Tea	Monita Leung	Jeanette Li
	Jojo Lee	Hong-yan Song