



Sunday
10-Mar-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.

Scripture reading: John 3:14-21 (New International Version)



Lifted Up

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Sunday

17-Mar-2024

THIS WEEK

Scripture reading: John 12:20-33 (New International Version)

From: 10-Mar-2024

To: 17-Mar-2024

Prayer points:

- For peace and restoration of stability in Israel, 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;
- 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 Fourth Sunday in Lent. I wonder what have you decided to give up this Lent? Because sometimes our lives get so crowded and we need to curve out space so that we can listen God afresh. And so, what have you given up this Lent? Have you given this some thoughts?
Our community has had several developments. Last week, we welcomed Anne Purcell to the team. I am very delighted to have Anne join us. Thank you for extending a generous welcome to Anne and her husband Andy. This week we farewell Winnie (she is not leaving us though). I am very grateful to Winnie and the passion that she brought to the role. I am particularly grateful that we get to mark the beginnings and the endings well as community.
This week's gospel reading reminds me of Henri Nouwen quote that believe captures the essence of our gospel reading. Nouwen says, "There comes a time in our lives the questions for us is no longer what can [we] still do to continue to make a contribution in this life."
The interesting thing about life is that there comes a time when the question is no longer what can we still do to continue to make a contribution. "But the question becomes how can we live now so that my death, my going away will be the optimal blessings for our family, our church and for the world." How can we live now that we die in the best way? This is actually the final spiritual question. But our culture has trained us to preoccupy ourselves with the question how can we be a better, generative adult.

How can we be a better mother, father, minister, teacher, sister but that is not the final question. Jesus says, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."
"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."
16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."
How can we die in such a way that our death brings, draws people to God? And it is seen as a gift rather than a clinging. Nouwen concludes:
"There is such a thing as a good death. We are responsible for the way we die. We have to choose between clinging to life in such a way that death become nothing but failure or letting go of life and freedom so that we can be given to others as a source of hope."
This pastoral reflection is not meant to be a downer. I suspect, death is the consideration of Lent. During the season of Lent, we are invited to wrestle with our mortality. And this week's gospels invite such wrestling.

Sunday 10-Mar-2024

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

Monday 11-Mar-2024

N/A

Tuesday 12-Mar-2024

N/A

Wednesday 13-Mar-2024

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 14-Mar-2024

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 15-Mar-2024

10:00 am Knitting Group
7:00 pm Youth Group

Sunday 17-Mar-2024

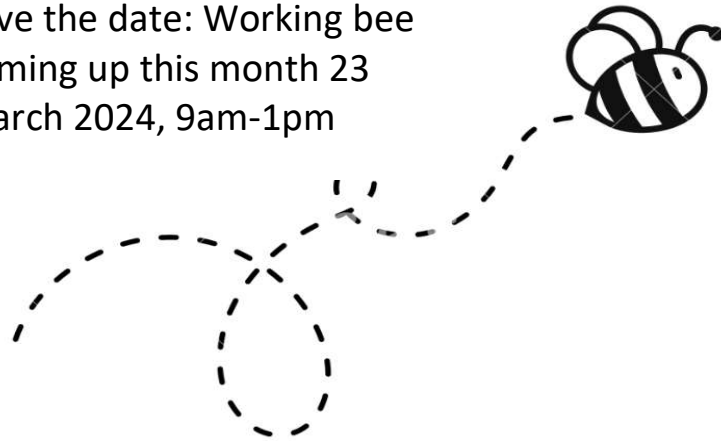
9.30 am Sunday Service in English
(Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Today we celebrate Winnie and her work as
Office Administrator at St Johns Bucklands Beach.



Thank you so much for all your hard work!

Save the date: Working bee
coming up this month 23
March 2024, 9am-1pm



The food bank needs:

rice

jam

peanut butter

tea bags

biscuits

Our donations make a
difference to families who are
struggling at the moment.





Songs for Today



1. Beneath the Cross of Jesus
2. Be Thou my vision
3. Lead me to Calvary
4. Prayer of Saint Francis

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	Anne Purcell	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
People's Warden	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	021 057 6327
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	
Direct Credit Offerings AC	03-0166-0135407-025	

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

	Today's Helpers 10-Mar-2024	Next Week's Helpers 17-Mar-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Jeff Odhiambo	Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Jeanette Li, Albert Ip, Winnie Wong	Rahil John Ronaldo
Projector & Sound Desk	Can you offer here?	Mavis Haigh
Reader	Olga Ferriera	Judy McDonald
Intercessor	Julie Dickey	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	N/A	Alison Stanton
HC Serving team	N/A	Joan Rutherford
Prayer ministry	Judy McDonald	Joan Jones
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Charles de Vilder	Judy McDonald
Counters	Charles de Vilder	Jeanette Li
	Bob Williamson	Nessie Crawford
Morning Tea	Betty Curd	Julie Dickey
	Nessie Crawford	Alison Stanton