



St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
26-May-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 3:1-17(New International Version)



How can this be?

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **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.

Sunday

2-Jun-2024

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-19 (New International Version)

Prayer points:

- Bring peace to place of conflict, within ourselves, in families, communities, within and between nations;
- For Jane's health;
- For Felicity's recovery;
- For safer communities;
- For our youth and adult leaders;
- For support for all those who have lost loved ones;
- For our friends at CYC;
- For the YWAM team as share their time with us.



Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns

Welcome to our first Sunday after Pentecost, which is also our Trinity Sunday. I begin this week's pastoral reflection by extending my gratitude to Colenso and Rona for leading us in welcoming our new members into the community last Sunday. I have received some very positive feedback from many people in our community, and my sense is that something shifted in our community last week. Honestly, I cannot wait to be witness to what God has in store for us as a community.

Tomorrow, we welcome Youth with A Mission team who will be visiting with us for a week. Again, I am excited about the possibility this holds for us. Please plan to join in on any of the planned activities that we will be having with them: the dinners, the Night prayers, board games ectara. Please make some space in your life to get to know the team and who knows, the interaction may lead to an opportunity of a lifetime!

This week's gospel reading in a way is asking this question, how exactly did Jesus' birth two thousand years ago secure God's presence with humanity? In other words, what is your concept of Incarnation? The English word "incarnation" takes its root in the Latin word *carnus*, meaning flesh, physical flesh. And so, what is your theology of God taking on flesh, physical body and moving into our world?

John's Gospel records a conversation between Jesus and a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Nicodemus approaches Jesus under cover of the night to inquire about God, they enter into a long and bewildering conversation about birth, light, Spirit, and belief. At one point in the conversation, though, Jesus refers back to the ancient story from

Numbers which Nicodemus must have known inside out and says this: **"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."** **"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."** What an odd comparison, the loving, saving Messiah to the bronze replica of a poisonous snake. What does this connection imply? I suspect this is the reason Nicodemus is puzzled, and thus his response, how can this be? **"How can someone be born when they are old? Surely, they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"**

THIS WEEK

From: 26-May-2024

To: 2-Jun-2024

Sunday 26-May-2024

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

Monday 27-May-2024

YWAM team arrives

Tuesday 28-May-2024

N/A

Wednesday 29-May-2024

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 30-May-2024

N/A

Friday 31-May-2024

10:00am Knitting Group

Sunday 2-Jun-2024

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

SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS WORKSHOP 2024



Let justice flow like a river

SAT 8 JUNE 2024

St Mary's Church, Glen Innes, 132 Taniwha St

8th June 2024 9:30am- 2:30pm

Register with:

sustainability.fieldworker@aucklandanglican.org.nz



Board Games Session with the YWAM team

Let Andy, Ayleen or Anne know if you're interested in being involved. Do you have a board game you would like to share?



Coffee and Chat @ St Johns Bucklands Beach

Tuesday 4th June, 10:30am

All Welcome



Songs for Today



How Great is our God
How great Thou art
The servant King
An evening prayer

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Wed/Fri 9am-12pm, Thurs 11am-2pm	
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 26-May-2024	Next Week's Helpers 2-Jun-2024
Preacher/Service Leader	Jeff / Suzanne	Jeff/Mavis
Musician/s	Jeanette, Winnie	Joan
Projector & Sound Desk	Michael	Collin
Reader	Rona	Felicity
Intercessor	Colenso	Bob
HC set up	N/A	Ayleen
HC Serving team	N/A	Olga
Prayer ministry	Joan R	Anne
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Mavis	Trevor
Counters	Trevor	Trevor
	Jeanette	Bob
Morning Tea	Miranda	Jeanette
	Grace	Hong-yan