



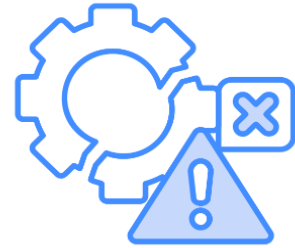
St John's
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
14-Jul-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: Mark 6: 14-29 (New International Version)

The Disruption



John the Baptist Beheaded

¹⁴ King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

¹⁵ Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

¹⁶ But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." ²³ And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Sunday

21-Jul-2024

Scripture reading: Mark 6:30-34,53-56 (New International Version)

Prayer points:

- Bring peace to places 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 families facing financial challenges and impacts of poverty;
- For members of St Johns Bucklands Beach travelling overseas;
- For the Table Tennis Extreme Camp participating families.



Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

This week's Gospel reading appears to be a digression or an interlude from the story. Check out an alternative retelling of the story. First, the ending of our reading last week:

12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

And then this is what happens if we join last week's reading to verse 30:

[Then] 30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Connecting these two verses makes so much sense. It gives a very different vibe. And so, why the digression?

It is very difficult for us to make much sense of this digression. Because in a way it is neither meaningful nor uplifting story. If anything, it is a story of a capricious king, who is given to opulence and wild self-indulgent parties. It is a story of a young, abused victim whose main value is to fulfil the selfish desires of the adults involved. It is also a story of a vindictive and manipulative imposter queen, who ultimately caused the death of a righteous and radical prophet. Again, what is the point of this digression?

What I see though is a possible parallel between this week's Gospel reading and Esther's story in the Old Testament. In both stories, there is a king who is not a king. In both stories, there is a banquet. In both stories, there is a young girl that is brought to a king. In both stories, the girl being brought in for the king is intended to please the king. In both stories, there is an oath for the asking and half of the kingdom promise given (this is the most striking of the parallels). Both stories are dealing with the issue of timing and time. And in both stories the characters understanding Kairos time (opportune time) matters. For instant, see **Mark 6:21-22 and Esther 4:12-14**

I wonder what does that parallel between Mark and Esther has to offer us in a way of understanding the disruption? What is God up to in Jesus?

Looking Forward and Getting Involved

This Week

Sunday 14 July-2024

9:30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle) 3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Monday 15-July-2024

Tuesday 16 July-2024

1:00-4:00pm Table Tennis Extreme Camp

Wednesday 17-July-2024

1:00-4:00pm Table Tennis Extreme Camp
7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 18-July-2024

1:00-4:00pm Table Tennis Extreme Camp

Friday 19-July-2024

Sunday 21-July-2024 9:30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle) 3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

St Johns Bucklands Beach is hosting:

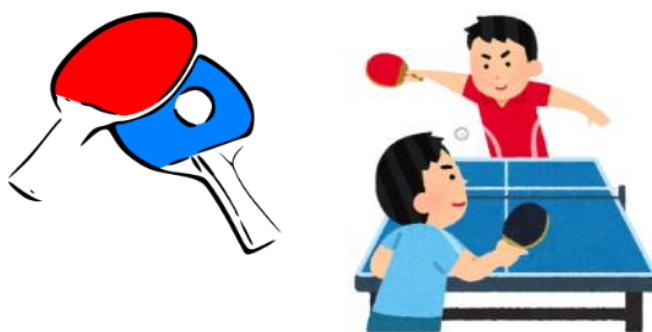


Table Tennis Extreme Camp -
July 16th-18th 1PM-4:00PM

Please pray for the families participating in the Table Tennis Extreme Camp.

For great conversations and connections

For lots of learning, fun and healthy competition

For spaces and places to relax enjoy afternoon tea together.

stjohnsholidayprogramme@gmail.com

Coffee and Chat @ St Johns Bucklands Beach

Once a month on Tuesdays at

10:30am

Watch this space for the next date

All Welcome





Songs for today



1. Give me oil in my lamp
2. We are here to praise you
3. I know who holds tomorrow
4. Change my heart Oh Lord

Sunday Services:	English 9:30 am	
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 14-Jul-2024	Next Week's Helpers 21-Jul-2024
Preacher/Service Leader	Jeff/Judy	Jeff/ Rona
Musician/s	Albert	Rahil
Projector & Sound Desk	Michael	Michael
Reader	Rona	Judy
Intercessor	Judy	Joan R
HC set up	N/A	Ayleen
HC Serving team	N/A	Jusy
Prayer ministry		
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Olga	Judy
Counters		
Morning Tea	Rona Colenso	Miranda Grace