

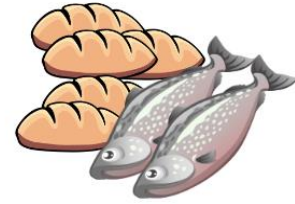


St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
28-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: John 6:1-21 (New International Version)



As much as they wanted

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

⁶ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Sunday

4-Aug-2024

Scripture reading: John 6: 24-35 (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 people of Aotearoa impacted by abuse in care.



Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

The Gospel reading this week centres around a shared meal. The story reads more like a fictional story than a reality. The shared meal origin is the boy's small lunch – five barley loaves and two fish. The multitude are then asked to sit down, the boy's lunch is taken, lifted up (gave thanks) and then it is distributed to 5000+ people. People eat as much as they want not only what they need. When the people finally have had enough, the disciples are asked to "gather the pieces that are left over" (I don't believe this is a small detail, I believe it holds the key to how the miracle happened). Be that as it may, nothing is wasted and the gathered pieces results to twelve full baskets.

How can there be twelve baskets full if there were only five loaves and two fish to begin with? How did the miracle exactly happen? Did Jesus really break the laws of science as we know them, and multiply those loaves and fish? Or was the actual miracle the opening of hearts and the channelling of manaakitanga/generosity, such that 5000+ people decided, as a result of their encounter with Jesus, to share their precious food with each other? We can never know for sure. What we know though is that these kinds of fictional stuff are a feature in the Gospel narrative all the time.

For instance, the virgin birth (someone at our weekly staff prayer meeting linked this story to the virgin birth). This connection is very profound and fascinating indeed, which I believe we can dwell on forever.

Anyway, back to that instruction that was given to the disciples "to gather". The disciple's initial instinct when they encountered a crisis was "to scatter". To send people away to fend for themselves. To be pragmatic. And looking at the crisis and the little that they had at hand they wondered "how far will they go among so many?" This question reminds me of two of Mother Teresa's quotes: "If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at the one, I will." And the second one, which I believe is connected to the first one: "If I'd never have picked up the first person, I'd never have picked up the 42,000 in Calcutta." I wonder what would have become of Mother Teresa had she refused her vocation. I wonder how the Gospel story this week would have ended up had Jesus taken heed of the disciples' pragmatic advice. I believe whole heartedly that generosity begets generosity. And the opposite is also true, scarcity begets scarcity.

Looking Forward and Getting Involved

This Week

Sunday 28 July-2024

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

Monday 29-July-2024

6:00pm Centering Prayer small chapel

Tuesday 30 July-2024

N/A

Wednesday 31-July-2024

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 1-Aug 024

N/A

Friday 2-Aug-2024

Youth Group

Sunday 28-July-2024 9:30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church with invitation to join this bilingual service and stay for dinner.

An invitation to connect -

Members of St Johns Bucklands Beach are invited to join *CYC* for a bi-lingual service this Sunday 28th August at 3:30pm. They will share about their recent mission trip to Tonga.

The invite extends to joining *CYC* afterwards for dinner.

Please let Jeff know if you are planning to come along so *CYC* can include you in the numbers for catering.

Centering Prayer - 6pm Monday - Small Chapel

An Anchoring space to start the week.....



Be still

and know...

Whanaketia - through pain and trauma, from darkness to light Whakairihia ki te tihi o Maungārongo

The final report on the abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults in the care of State and faith-based institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand between 1950-1999 has been released this week.

We as church are challenged to:

- Hear and support survivors
- Understand and apply trauma informed approaches to care
- Find out about Puretumu Torowhānui, Holistic redress
- Make it easier for victims to report abuse



Songs for today



1. Come now is the time
2. Here I am
3. Circle me
4. What a friend I have in Jesus

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 28-Jul-2024	Next Week's Helpers 4-Aug-2024 Holy Communion
Preacher/Service Leader	Jeff/ Mavis	Jeff/ Anne
Musician/s	Joan W	Rahil
Projector & Sound Desk	Charles	Collin
Reader	Olga	Felicity
Intercessor	Bob W	Julie
HC set up	N/A	
HC Serving team	N/A	Anne
Prayer ministry		
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Charles	Charles
Counters	Bob	Albert
		Christo
Morning Tea	Jojo	Julie D
	Monita	