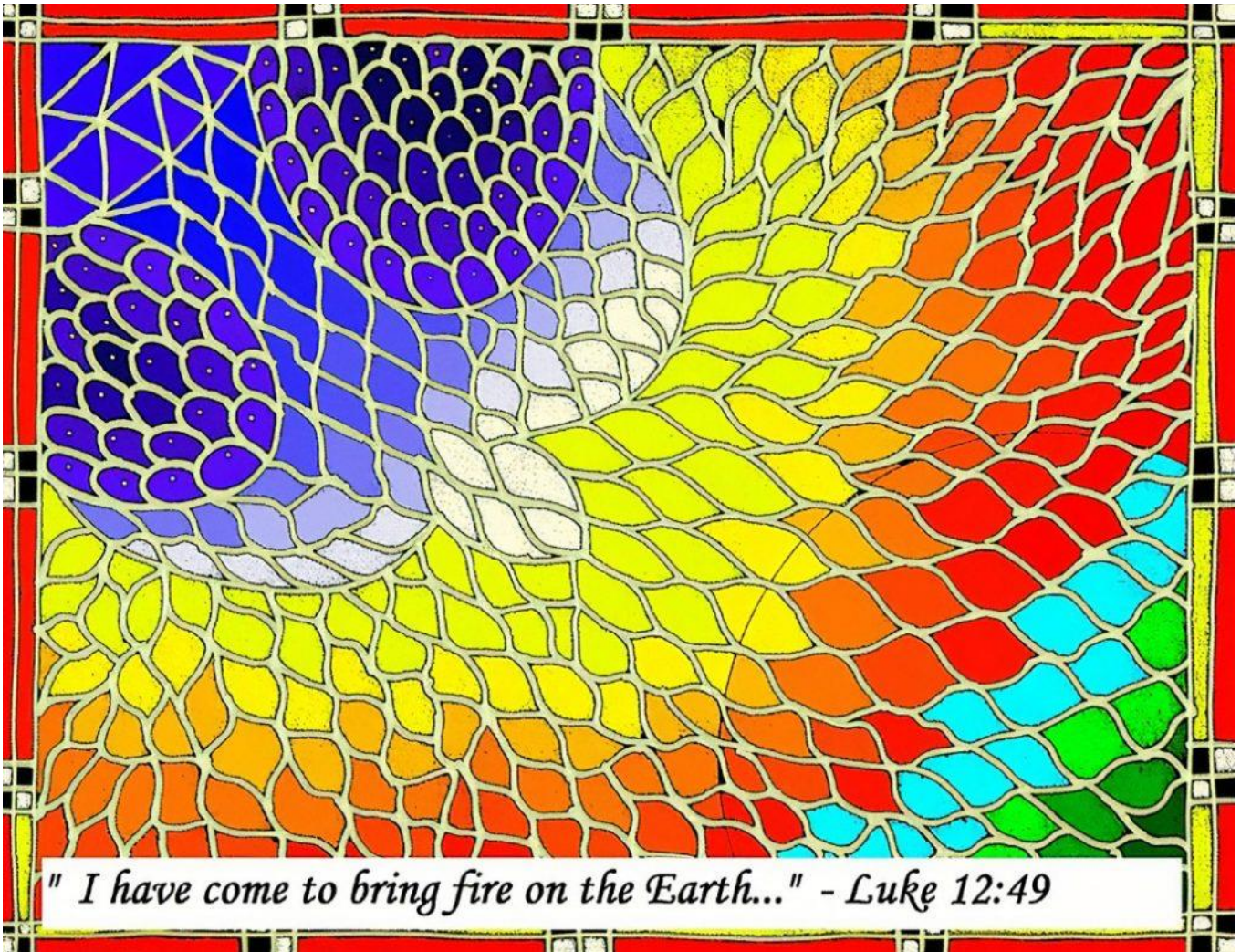




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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20th Ordinary Sunday



17th August 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear AGAC friends,

It is getting warmer in daytime, and we might notice spring is around the corner these days. But there are people who are living rough in the same city where we live. Yes, homeless situation in Auckland is at “crisis” point.

The following is an update on this matter from our own Auckland City Missioner Helen Robinson, which I am inviting you to read and reflect with open hearts.

Kia ora,

*I know you share our concerns for people sleeping rough in Tāmaki Makaurau, and I wanted to update you on the rise in homelessness that we're seeing on the front line. You may have heard the distressing news that **the number of people without shelter in our city rose from 426 to 809 between September 2024 and May 2025***, which represents a 90% increase. This is*

not just a statistic, it is real people who are suffering deeply.

Here at the Auckland City Mission, we've seen more and more people coming in for hot meals, connecting with our street outreach team and sleeping in our laneway during the day - because they literally have nowhere safe to sleep at night.

We are very clear that changes to the government's emergency housing policy in September last year have directly contributed to more people ending up on the street.

None of us think that emergency housing is the long-term answer - New Zealand needs more affordable, permanent homes. But right now, we urgently need safe shelter with immediate access and appropriate support for people with nowhere else to go.

To this end, we have been in conversation with the government in

recent months and I am encouraged that they have now acknowledged the rise in homelessness and reached out to front line organisations, including the Mission, for help. We look forward to working together to find the solutions our country needs. Until the day that everyone in Aotearoa has a safe place to call home, your support continues to be a lifeline for our people. Thank you for your care, your compassion and the hope that you provide.

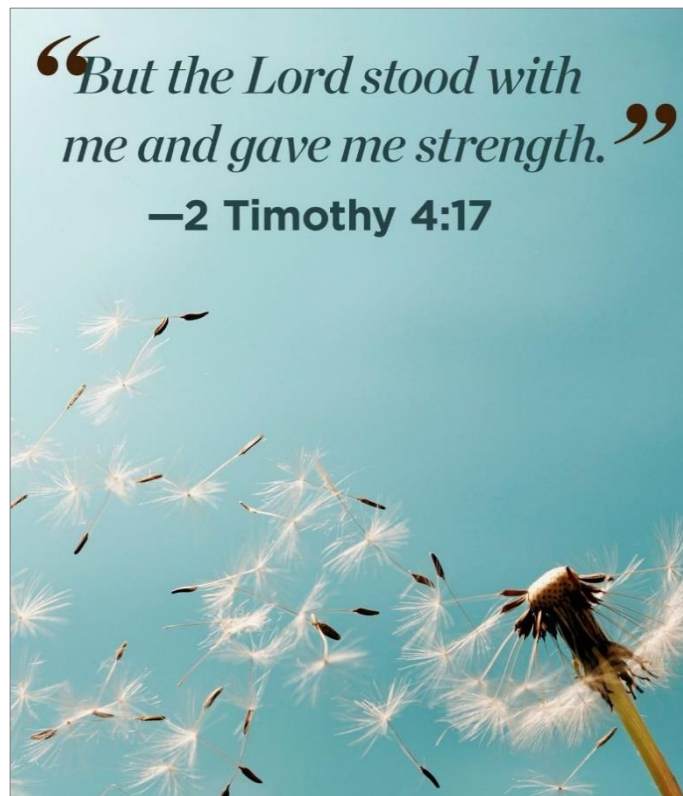
Helen Robinson

Let's pray for those who are living on the streets, for the government to follow through on its desire to do something concrete to address the problem, and for the Mission and for all people who befriend, support and serve rough sleepers in our city.

If you want to read more about it or help people, please visit their website; [Housing - Auckland City Mission](#)

Peace in Christ,

Yukiko



News and Upcoming Events



This week, we talked about “**Schemas**”, a well-developed idea of our expectations of certain situations. Schemas are built by repeating actions and behaviours while experiencing life and they influence how we interpret later events. We have schemas for everything, from how we expect supermarkets to work to how we expect to be treated by loved ones. For example, can you remember the first time you ever went on a date? How did you know what to expect when you’d never experienced this before? What was in your ‘date’ schema?



Coffee Fellowship

Settler’s morning Tea

Next meeting: Wednesday **20th August** at **10 am** at Settler’s lounge.

Anglican Diocese of Auckland – Video News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18lq4bMsVuA>

We pray for:

- Immigrant families and individuals in the U.S. and elsewhere, especially those facing detention or deportation (a daughter of a Korean Anglican priest was arrested by ICE for overstaying her religious visa)
- Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, after militants massacred parishioners during a vigil in a Catholic church.
- Those struggling to pay for food or heat their homes, for families in overcrowded or unhealthy living situations, for young people forced onto the street, for those who have lost their jobs and are experiencing life as punitive and dehumanising.

This Week's Bible Question

By faith, this woman did not perish when the walls of Jericho fell, because she received the spies. Who was it?

A: Rahab

B: Jezebel

C: Bathsheba

D: Sarah

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Blessed Assurance

Gospel: Great is thy faithfulness

Offertory: He is Lord

Recession: I have decided to follow Jesus

Sentence for the day

Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? (Jeremiah 23: 29)

Readings

17th August

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm Psalm 82

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

24th August

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Liturgical Colour

GREEN

Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: Shows that God is not limited to one place and can see everything, exposing the lies of those who falsely claim to speak for Him.
- 2nd Reading: This indicates the importance of faith, drawing examples from the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea and their subsequent conquest of Canaan, to illustrate how faith enables believers to overcome obstacles and challenges.
- Gospel: Jesus speaks about bringing division, not peace, and emphasizes the urgency of understanding the present time. He uses the imagery of fire to symbolize his ministry and the division it will cause, separating those who accept his message from those who reject it.

Collect for the Day

Come Holy Spirit, to all baptised in your name,
that we may turn to good whatever lies ahead.

Give us passion, give us fire;
make us transform the world from what it is,
to what you have created it to be.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

This Week's Bible Question Answer

A) Rahab

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>17th August</u>	<u>24th August</u>
Sacristan	Alison Coughlan	Dorothy Schultz
Welcomer	Dorothy Schultz	Ria Gormley
1 Readings	Bernadette	Linda Wells
2 Readings	Trish Duncan	Alison Thompson
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Robert	Beatrix Jones
TV Setup & Slides	Patrick Harris	Gary Wells
Morning Tea	Beatrix & Robert	Linda and Gary
Flowers	Diana Harris	Ria Gormley
Music	Yukiko & Stephanie	Yukiko & Stephanie

St Michaels

	<u>17th August</u>	<u>24th August</u>
Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Bruce Goertz	Brian Simpson
Presiding	Les	Bruce

**You can't go back and
change the beginning,
but you can start where
you are and *change
the ending.***



C.S. LEWIS

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Feedback welcome:

If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please contact the wardens, Dorothy & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Parish

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