

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21st Ordinary Sunday



Bent Woman,
Painted by **Milos Todorovic**, in 2018

24th August 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



All the readings assigned this week – Isaiah 58, Psalm 103, Hebrews 12 and Luke 13 – paint a vivid picture of the **justice** we are called to embody.

Isaiah 58 brings a powerful challenge to hollow religious observance. The people of Israel were faithfully engaging in rituals of fasting and worship, but God's response is clear: their sacrifices are meaningless if they are not accompanied by justice. Psalm 103 is a hymn of praise that celebrates God's mercy and care for the weak and vulnerable. Hebrews 12 invites us to reflect on the call to perseverance in the pursuit of this type of overarching justice, while Luke 13 is urging us to prioritize acts of compassion, justice, and freedom in our interactions with others and in our worship of God.

As shared in the newsletter and my reflection for the last several weeks, I have been personally challenged to reflect on how I am engaging with the issue of justice. God graciously reminds me that our faith is not just about words but about action – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and breaking the chains of injustice in our community. And I am inviting you to join me in this challenge.

Ngā manaakitanga

Yukiko



News and Upcoming Events



This week, our theme was “communicating with babies.” And we looked at the concept of “parentese,” a specific social and linguistic speaking style which is infant directed and has shown to positively benefit children’s speech and language development.” It is different from a “baby talk.” Some mums said they speak to their babies a lot perhaps because she has no one to talk with while staying at home. And their babies do not judge them for silly talk! I realised I do too with my dog often!



Coffee Fellowship

We had a wonderful gathering last Wednesday.
Next meeting: Wednesday **17th September** at **10 am**
at Settler’s lounge.

**BAROQUE
INSPIRATIONS:
THEN AND NOW**

WILHELM POPP | JOSEF GABRIEL RHEINBERGER |
CLAUDE BOLLING | AND MORE...

SAT AUGUST 30TH | AT 07:30 PM
HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN CHURCH
222 DAIRY FLAT HIGHWAY, ALBANY, AUCKLAND

MUSIC BY: TUAKAU TRIO
TWILA REID - CELLO
GYURI MUN - FLUTE
KARIN KIKUNO - ORGAN/PIANO

ENTRY BY KOHA DONATION

The poster is for a concert titled 'Baroque Inspirations: Then and Now'. It features a list of composers: Wilhelm Popp, Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, and Claude Bolling. The event is on Saturday, August 30th at 7:30 PM at Holy Cross Anglican Church, 222 Dairy Flat Highway, Albany, Auckland. The music is performed by the Tuakau Trio, consisting of Twila Reid (Cello), Gyuri Mun (Flute), and Karin Kikuno (Organ/Piano). The poster includes a photo of the trio in a gold frame and decorative corner ornaments. A treble clef and musical notes are in the top right corner.

We pray for:

- The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and for strength and clarity from the international community in preventing further genocidal actions against the people of Palestine.
- Ukraine and Russia; Give all the leaders wisdom beyond human understanding and let their choices be guided by justice and truth.

This Week's Bible Question

Who did the writer of Hebrews describe as a consuming fire?

A: Hell

B: God

C: The Spirit

D: Jealousy

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

Gospel: Make me a channel of your peace

Offertory: The Church's One Foundation

Recession: I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Sentence for the day

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; (Psalm 103: 11)

Readings

	<u>24th August</u>	<u>31st August</u>
1 st Reading:	Isaiah 58:9b-14	Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm	Psalm 103:1-8	Psalm 112
2 nd Reading:	Hebrews 12:18-29	Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16
Gospel:	Luke 13:10-17	Luke 14:1,7-14

Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: The exiled Jews of the 6th Century BC are about to return to their homeland. The Third Isaiah pleads with them to actively care for the needy and the hungry, a sign of true religion.
- 2nd Reading: The vivid and symbolic imagery in this passage reassures Christians that the new Mt Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem centred on Christ, is their arena of worship.
- Gospel: Healing someone on the Sabbath was considered a breach of divine law. Hence Jesus' reaction when he is challenged.

Collect for the Day

God of healing and reconciliation,
You free us from our burdens
And promise us safety and refuge.
Help us to trust in your power,
That we may praise you without qualification
And rejoice in the power of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Liturgical Colour

GREEN

This Week's Bible Question Answer

B: God

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>24th August</u>	<u>31st August</u>
Sacristan	Dorothy Schultz	Val Deas
Welcomer	Ria Gormley	Trish Duncan
1 Readings	Linda Wells	Diana Harris
2 Readings	Alison Thompson	Patrick Harris
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Beatrix Jones	Rhona Stace
TV Setup & Slides	Gary Wells	Graham Wood
Morning Tea	Gary & Linda	Karenne & Trish
Flowers	Ria Gormley	Ria Gormley
Music	Yukiko & Stephanie	Anne

St Michaels

	<u>24th August</u>	<u>31st August</u>
Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Brian Simpson	Bruce Goertz
Presiding	Bruce Goertz	Yukiko



Contacts

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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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**May your week
overflow with peace,
love and happiness!**

