

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday in Lent



8th March 2026



Notes from Yukiko's Desk

Dear AGAC family,

The fear, the panic, the anxiety experienced by millions of people in the Middle East and beyond is so real. US-Iran conflict threatens not only the stability of the Middle East but also the peace of the world. Innocent lives are lost and families are torn apart. The situation consumes our heart greatly.

With all the wars going on in the world and threats of more to come, what can we do as Christians? It seems so hopeless.... As I was reflecting on the current crisis through the lens of the readings for this Sunday, Paul's words in Romans caught my eyes. Here, Paul reminds us that, even in adversity, we have the **hope of the grace of God**. It is not that we need suffering to produce character (contrary to some teaching), but it is often in tough spots that we discover God with us.

In this Lenten season, it strikes me that this passage becomes particularly poignant as we journey with Jesus to his execution and as we witness his suffering. Life with Christ does not mean at all that we will be free from hardship, but it is the hope that we have in the midst of it that makes a difference, enabling us to look forward to the grace of God that is ours. So, let's continue to pray for peace and hope in the world.

Arohanui,
Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events



Coffee Fellowship

Settler's Morning Tea:

We will meet again on **18th March** Wednesday at **10 am** at Settler's Lounge.

Lenten Study

We meet for **Lenten Study at 10 am on Wednesday mornings (11,18, 25 March)** at **Holy Cross**. We can have refreshment afterwards. Even if you cannot make it all the sessions, you are most welcome to join some of them.

Note: Settler's Morning Tea and Lenten Study happens the same time on the same day. We will keep it as scheduled.

St. Michael's in Greenhithe turning 70!

On Palm Sunday in 1956, St. Michael's All Angles was founded at the heart of Greenhithe. **On 12th April** we are celebrating this special milestone. We will gather for the service at 9 am, and a special morning tea around 9:30. If you have some stories or photos of St. Michael's, let Yukiko know. Please invite anyone who has been part of the St. Michael's whanau. If you think you are able to help this small yet special celebration (making a cake, putting photos etc), please let Yukiko know.

Dates to remember:

- **Special General Meeting (Finance): 22 March**
- **St. John's Ambulance's AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) refresher' course: Sunday 29 March**

Security in Church

Just letting you know that last Sunday while Yukiko was sharing her reflection at Holy Cross, someone came into the Church and got aggressive and dangerous. Two of our parishioners managed to ask him to leave the Church. We reported the incident to the diocese and were advised that we should write a security policy. We want to welcome everyone, but at the same time, the security and safety of our congregation and parishioners is of the utmost importance, especially in this current age. The vestry will work on the implement of the policy. Please pray for protection and wisdom on how to deal with tough situations.

We pray for:

- peace amid the escalating tension in the Middle East.
- New Zealand's homeless population, recent government decision on the 'Move On' legislation.
- St John's Theological College board, staff and students as they began the new academic year.
- Our parishioners who are not able to attend Sunday services due to their physical vulnerability.

This Week's Bible Question

According to Exodus, what specific item did the Lord tell Moses to take in his hand to address the water issue?

- A. A sword B. A rod C. A staff D. A scroll

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross (HC)

Opening: Great is thy Faithfulness

Gospel: Te Aroha

Offertory: Give Thanks

Recession: Lift high the cross

Sentence for the day

The water that I will give,' says the Lord, 'will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' *John 4:14*

Readings

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
1 st Reading:	Exodus 17: 1-7	1 Sam 16: 1-13
Psalms	95	23
2 nd Reading:	Romans 5: 1-11	Ep 5: 8-14
Gospel:	John 4: 5-42	John 9: 1-41

Summary of the Scripture for this Sunday

1st Reading: The desert wanderings of the Hebrews after the Exodus event mean that water was in short supply. Moses' leadership is again challenged.

2nd Reading: Paul continues to emphasise that Christ's death is for all humanity, no matter what our status or ethical values.

Gospel: Jesus' encounters a Samaritan woman at a well. The gospel explores not only her lifestyle but the essential nature of true worship.

Collect for the Day

Give us grace and courage to hope,
and to risk disappointment.
Teach us to pray expectantly,
and when our prayers seem to fail,
bring us to pray again and again;
for you are our God,
who acts, and will act again.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

Liturgical Colour: Violet

This Week's Bible Question Answer: C

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sacristan	Alison C	Val
Welcomer	Ria	Alison T
1 Readings	Patrick	John
2 Readings	Diana	Valerie
Presiding	Les	Yukiko
Prayers	Rhona	Robert
TV Setup & Slides	Patrick	Gary
Morning Tea	Karenne & Trish D	Gary & Linda
Music	Trish G	Anne

St Michaels

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Prayers	Bruce	Bruce
Readings	Bruce	Brian
Presiding	Bruce	Yukiko

Contacts

<u>Vicar</u>	The Rev'd Yukiko Wakui- Khaw
Confidential Email	Vicar@agac.org.nz
Mobile	021 047 4753
<u>Minister</u>	The Rev'd Les Doss
Phone	(09) 415 7619
<u>Deacon</u>	The Rev'd Bruce Goertz
<u>Minister's Warden</u>	Trish Duncan
Mobile	027 767 5904
<u>People's Warden</u>	Dorothy Schultz
Mobile	027 623 1752
<u>Office</u>	
Email	Office@agac.org.nz
<u>Treasurer</u>	Valerie Churchill
Email	treasurer@agac.org.nz
<u>Secretary</u>	Patrick Harris
Email	secretary@agac.org.nz
<u>Property and Rentals</u>	John Churchill
Email	property@agac.org.nz

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 Anglican Parish

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

www.agac.org.nz

"For he is our God and we are
the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care."

(Psalm 95:7)



TheTeachableHeart.com