

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

4th Sunday of Easter



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26 April 2026
Good Shepherd Sunday

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear AGAC whanau,

I trust you are enjoying the beginning of the beautiful season of Autumn! I feel rested and refreshed while taking several days off. I didn't go away, but I spent a lot of time in the garden where we moved in several weeks ago. We also walked tracks just behind our new home. As I love exploring natural wonders, I feel so blessed that I am able to do that in our neighbourhood! One of the highlights in living in Albany for me is autumn trees. Simply by driving through the streets or walking around, we are able to experience the serene beauty of changing seasons around here. I thank God for calling us in this place. I bet you know what I mean!

In this change of seasons, it may be a time of new beginnings, I also realised that oftentimes the news tells us a different story. When I watch what is happening in the world right now, I feel as if we remained in the tomb instead of celebrating Jesus' resurrection. While we may admit transformation is slowly happening in new ways, it's still so easy to dwell in Good Friday.

That said, as I was reflecting on the current news through the lens of the gospel passage of last Sunday, I found hope and comfort. I was reminded that when Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with his followers, he truly shared their pain and sorrow. He didn't try to change how they were feeling, but rather asked questions about what they were carrying. And the good news is that Jesus still walks with us today.

He walks with nations at war: Iran, Sudan, and with Palestine. On the road, Jesus is very much concerned with the vulnerable women and gently asked them to share their stories. Stories of

the hurt, betrayal and violence. It is in the breaking of bread, that Jesus' disciples recognise Christ and ask, "were not our hearts burning within us?" As Jesus appeared to Thomas who once doubted whether the resurrection was true, so Jesus also walks with us in our doubts. He surely walks with the people of Ukraine as they doubt whether the Easter Truce will really stick especially as there have already been more than 2,000 ceasefire violations with Russia. And to the people of Hungary who are uncertain of what the post-election will bring, He says, "Peace be with you." For the disciples who felt that their leader was still dead even as he was walking right beside them, and for us, who wonder where is God when school shootings take place. Jesus still shows up and says, "I'm right here with you in this mess." Eastertide this year may not seem all that joyful, but still, we know that we can trust in the One who cares for us. Hear our pleas, and listens to our hearts' longings. When we are filled with doubt, fear, and confusion, come in and help us to hear, ***"I'm walking beside you, I feel your hearts burning, and I offer you my companionship."*** He is truly our good shepherd. May you experience that in your own life.

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events

Our next **Settler's Morning Tea** will be happening Wednesday, **20th May at 10 am** at Settler's Lounge.

Space Programme

We started a new programme with 16 families this week. It was so lovely to see them!

St. Michael's 70th birthday will be celebrated on **3rd of May**. We will meet at St. Michael's at 9 am for the service, and then have a morning tea at the house next to the Church.

Security in Holy Cross during Sunday service

After several incidents happened at Holy Cross recently, the vestry decided that the external doors at Holy Cross are to be locked during services except for the main door, which is to be left open and kept under observation. If you come late, please come through the main entrance. If you come through the side door, not to worry, the person who is doing the slides will open for you as well! Also please ensure your car is locked and do not leave anything valuable. During the evening service (Catholic Church), someone's car got broken in recently.

New roles at AGAC (see the back page of the newsletter)

If you have any issues or questions regarding IT or website, please contact **Jeff Zhou**.

If you have any issues regarding the property at Holy Cross, Please contact **Robert Heeps**.

We pray for:

- The conflict between Israel, America and Iran and all the other countries now embroiled.
- The Space programme for babies and new parents at Holy Cross; Robyn the facilitator, and volunteers, Trish Gosper, Stephanie and Yukiko.
- Wellington where was affected by heavy rain and flooding recently. May God be near to all who are afraid, displaced, or exhausted.

This Week's Bible Question

How did Christ respond when he was abused, according to Peter?

- A. He did not abuse in return B. He answered with kindness
C. He spoke words of peace D. He remained silent always

A bonus quiz

There are seven 'I AM' statements in John's Gospel. How many can you name? E.g. In John 10:11 Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd."...

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Holy Holy Holy
Gospel: Love is your way
Offertory: Psalm 23
Recession: By the rivers of Babylon

Sentence for the day

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep'
John 10:11

Readings

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
1 st Reading:	Acts 2: 42-47	Acts 7:55-60
Psalm	23	31: 1-5;15-16
2 nd Reading:	1 Peter 2:19-25	1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel:	John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14

Summary of the Scriptures

- 1st Reading: The early Christian converts remain within the Jewish heritage. They retain a strong sense of community.
- 2nd Reading: Set against increasing persecution of

Christians in Rome, the writer speaks of the sufferings of Jesus, echoing the 'suffering servant' passages from Isaiah.

Gospel: John reflects on the image of Jesus as the shepherd who is a gatekeeper protecting the flock.

Collect for the Day

Good Shepherd, you know us by name and lead us into life. As we gather, still the noise around us and let us hear your voice. Restore what is weary in us, guide us in paths of righteousness, and remind us that your goodness follows us all our days. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Liturgical Colour: White

This Week's Bible Question Answer: A

The answer for bonus quiz

"I am the bread of life." (John 6:35).

"I am the light of the world." (John 8:12).

"I am the gate." (John 10:9).

"I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6).

"I am the true vine." (John 15:1).

"I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
Sacristan	Karenne	Dorothy S
Welcomer	Alison T	Trish D
1 Readings	John	Christian
2 Readings	Valarie	Romela
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Robert	Beatrix
TV Setup & Slides	Christian	Karenne
Morning Tea	Dorothy M &	June and Robert
Flowers	Yukiko	Ria
Music	Andrew	Trish

St Michaels

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



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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 Anglican Parish

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www.agac.org.nz