



Painting: 'Refugees' by Alma of Cyprus

Refugee Sunday

5th July 2026

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Kia Ora koutou,

In the Lectionary the first Sunday in July is designated as **Refugee Sunday**. Each year, the Anglican Church marks it as a time to remember, pray for, and stand in solidarity with refugees and displaced people around the world. It is an opportunity for us as a faith community to reflect on God's call to show compassion, hospitality, and justice to those seeking safety and a new beginning. Since I touched on the theme of **welcoming** in my reflection at Holy Cross last Sunday, we are not particularly focusing on the theme of Refugee Sunday in the worship this Sunday. However, I am inviting you all to reflect on the plight of those displaced.

According to the recent statistics,

- By the end of 2026, an estimated **136 million people** worldwide are expected to be forcibly displaced or stateless.
- **1 out of 70 people on Earth** has been forced to flee
- **68.7 million people** are internally displaced

Imagine, how we would cope if we were forced to start our lives all over again. Starting from scratch in a foreign country, far away from friends and family, from familiar surroundings – and all in a language we can't read or speak. That said, I want to stress that it is not just about recognizing the struggles of refugees but also celebrating their resilience and contributions to society. And real change begins when we move beyond awareness and take action. By standing together, we can create a world where every refugee is welcomed, protected, and given the opportunity to thrive. Every blessing,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events

The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo

Every 1st Sunday of the month(except August), we will chant the Lord's Prayer in Te Reo during the communion. I encourage you to learn some words each time. Here are first two lines.

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi (*Matua*: Father, *Rangi*: heaven)

Our Father in Heaven

Kia tapu tōu Ingoa. (*Tapu*: sacred, *Ingoa*: Name)

Hallowed by your name



We swapped items for treasure basket. Look at the

variety of items (in the photo)!

We will have two weeks break during school holidays.



Settler's Morning Tea:

Next meeting: at **10am** Wednesday **15 July** at Settler's Lounge.

Training sessions for ministry:

Every second Sunday after Sunday service at Holy Cross (11:45-12:15) **12 July: Being a Reader**

It will be an opportunity for those who are involved in readings (and who desires to exercise the ministry of reading) to get together for the purpose of ongoing formation.

Brass band Concert

Barry Gosper is a member of Kumeu Vintage Brass who will be performing at the **Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna** as part of the '**Morning Melodies**' series of concerts commencing



at 11.00am on Monday 20th July 2026.

The band comprises of 35+ members of some of New Zealand's finest players who represent many years of quality brass band music. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster.

We pray for:

- Those who are displaced; May God provide every refugee with a secure place to rest without fear, protect them from violence and harsh conditions, and guide communities to welcome them with compassion
- Venezuela and all those caught in the twin earthquakes' path; for the injured and the trapped, for families searching for the missing, and for those grieving loved ones.
- Those affected by heatwaves in Spain and France.
- New Zealand's wildlife areas, 60% of which may be threatened by government plans.

This Week's Bible Question

According to Zechariah, the King coming to Jerusalem would ride on what?

- A. Horse B. Camel C. Elephant D. Donkey

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: These hills where the hawk flies lonely
Gradual: A new commandment
Offertory: Community of Christ
Recessional: Christ be our light

Sentence for the day

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,' says the Lord. 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.'

Matthew 11:28-29

Readings

	<u>5 July</u>	<u>12th July</u>
1 st Reading:	Zechariah 9:9-12	Job 38:1,4-11
Psalms	45:10-17	107:23-32
2 nd Reading:	Rom 7:15-25a	Acts 27:27-32,39-44
Gospel:	Matt 11:16-19,25-30	Mark 4: 35-41

Summary of the Scripture

1st Reading: It prophesies a humble, victorious King bringing salvation and hope, fulfilled in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, while also offering a broader message of deliverance and restoration for God's people.

2nd Reading: Paul acknowledges the inner conflict of conscience, i.e. between what is morally right and the pull to follow one's own sinful inclinations.

Gospel: It addresses the unresponsive nature of the current generation and contrasts it with those who seek comfort in Jesus. He invites the weary and burdened to come to Him for rest.

Collect for the Day

**Holy and eternal God,
give us such trust in your sure purpose, that we measure our
lives not by what we have done or failed to do, but by our
faithfulness to you. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

Liturgical Colour: Green



This Week's Bible Question Answer: D

Roster

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
Sacristan	Alison C	Val D
Welcomer	Barry	Alison T
1 Readings	Patrick	Romela
2 Readings	Diana	Christian
Presiding	Yukiko	Cheen
Prayers	Rhona	Beatrix
TV Setup & Slides	Karenne	Graham
Morning Tea	Beatrix & Robert	Gary & Linda
Flowers	Diana	Diana
Music	Trish G	Andrew

St Michaels

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



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