

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18th Ordinary time



the Mosaic of the Loaves and Fishes
at the Church of the Multiplication in Tabgha, Israel

2 August 2026

Notes from Yukiko's Desk

Dear AGAC whanau,



The image in this newsletter is the mosaic which was part of the

Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes,



in Tabgha (the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee), dating back to the late 300s. It depicts two stylized and cleanly outlined fish flanking a basket with what appears to be small liturgical breads in it, of the type used for the Eucharist. If you look at

carefully, you may notice and wonder: Why only four loaves are visible? It should be five... Well, it was not a mistake, and the artist did this intentionally. The location of the mosaic (see the photo in the cover- beneath the altar of the church) is the key to its interpretation. Because the fifth one is Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life! I hope I can visit the Church one day.

I am scheduled to leave Japan on the 2nd of August and arrive in the morning of 3rd of Aug. (Note, I am writing this before I leave. Anything could happen!) This Sunday, Colleen Binns will preside and her husband Ricki will share his reflection at Holy Cross. I am grateful that they are able to take a service while I am away.

If I need to be contacted, please email me. Otherwise, please contact Les, Bruce or Cheen (0211334426). I will be thinking of you and praying for you from a hot Japan.

Ngā manaakitanga Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events



The theme for week 2 was “what’s next for our whanau.” One of the discussion questions is

“How do you usually make big decisions in your family? I am interested in hearing your case.



Settler’s Morning Tea:

Next meeting: at **10am** Wednesday **19 Aug** at Settler’s Lounge.

Training sessions Part 2: Intercessory Prayer

Will be happening on **9th August** after the service (**11:45-12:15**) at Holy Cross.



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

The **Season of Creation 2026** is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration,

conversion, and commitment together. Celebrated annually from **September 1 to October 4**—the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi—this ecumenical season mobilizes churches, faith-based organizations, and communities worldwide to respond to the ecological crisis. For 2026, the official theme is **“Living Water.”** More details to come, but if you have any suggestions on how we can engage in the Season of Creation, please let Yukiko know. For example, a photo contest, participating in community action, planting trees etc.

We pray for:

- The various groups hiring the site at our Church
- peace for all the countries that are at war with each other
- Truthfulness, discernment, and kindness as New Zealand prepares for a general election
- Food bank and food rescue charities facing closure, and for God to sustain and strengthen all who work to support food security in various ways.

This Week's Bible Question

What was the name given to the place where Jacob slept?

A. Jerusalem B. Bethel C. Beersheba D. Jerico

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Morning has broken
Gradual: God who sets us on a journey
Offertory: Make me a channel of your peace
Recessional: We sing a love

Sentence for the day

The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all that fear him, hears their cry, and saves them.

Psalms 145:18–19

Readings

	<u>2 Aug</u>	<u>9 Aug</u>
1 st Reading:	Genesis 32: 22-31	Genesis 37: 1-4;12-28
Psalms	17: 1-7, 16	105: 1-6, 16-22
2 nd Reading:	Rom 9: 1-5	Rom 10:5-15
Gospel:	Matt 14:13-21	Matthew 14: 22-33

Summary of the Scriptures

1st Reading: recounts Jacob's all-night struggle with a divine being, culminating in his transformation and renaming as Israel, symbolizing his perseverance with God and men.

2nd Reading: Paul addresses an issue which concerns him deeply - namely, the rejection by Israel of Jesus as the Messiah, the expected one.

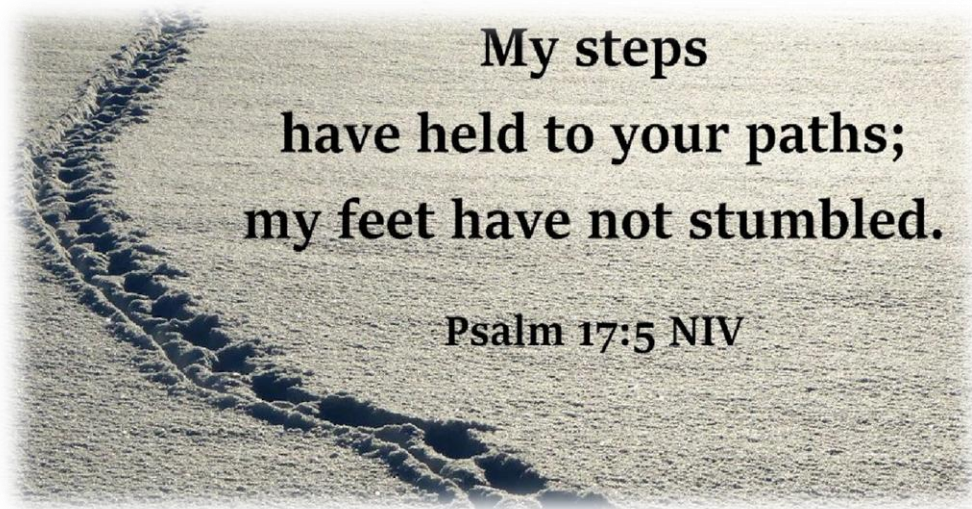
Gospel: The news of the Baptist's death leads Jesus to a quiet place, only to be followed by the miracle of the feeding of the 5000.

Collect for the Day

God of the hungry, make us hunger and thirst for the right, till our thirst for justice has been satisfied and hunger has gone from the earth. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

Liturgical Colour: Green

This Week's Bible Question Answer: B



Rosters

Holy Cross

Sacristan

Welcomer

1 Readings

2 Readings

Presiding

Reflection

Prayers

TV Setup & Slides

Morning Tea

Flowers

Music

2 Aug

Alison C

Barry G

Diana H

Bernadette

Colleen Binns

Ricki

Rhona

Patrick H

Beatrix & Robert

Diana H

Andrew

9 Aug

Val D

Alison T

Trish D

Linda

Les

Les

Beatrix

Karenne

Ria & June

Yukiko

Trish G

St Michaels

Prayers

Readings

Presiding

2 Aug

Bruce

Brian

Les

9 Aug

Bruce

Bruce

Bruce

From the Lectionary- Daily Readings for the week ahead

Monday	Psalm 44	1 Sam 19: 1-18	Acts 1: 1-14
Tuesday	Psalm 48	1 Sam 20: 1-17	Acts 1:15-end
Wednesday	Psalm 119:57-80	1 Sam 20:18-end	Acts 2: 1-21
Thursday	Psalm 27; 150	1 Kgs 19:1-16	1 John 3:1-3
Friday	Psalm 51	1 Sam 22:6-end	Acts 2: 37-end
Saturday	Psalm 68	1 Sam 23	Acts 3: 1-10

3 Aug (Mon): St. Stephen, the first Christian Martyr

6 Aug (Thr): The Transfiguration of the beloved Son

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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

With Christ, you will



always have enough.