

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

29th Ordinary time



18 Oct 2026

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear friends of AGAC,

This week's readings all seem to circle around one simple question: *what, or who, do we trust most?* It's a question that feels just as relevant today as it did for Isaiah, Paul and Jesus.

One thing which strikes me is that in Isaiah 45 God's chosen instrument is Cyrus, a Persian king who neither belongs to Israel nor shares Israel's faith. God even says, "*I call you by your name, though you do not know me*" (v.4).

That immediately challenged my assumptions. We often expect God to work through the obvious people: church leaders, committed Christians, or established congregations. And yet, Isaiah reminds us that God's activity cannot be confined to our expectations. God is already at work beyond the walls of the church. He can work through anyone, even people who do not know Him!

In our own communities, we often see glimpses of this. Nurses, teachers, volunteers, and neighbours quietly offer hope and dignity long before anyone speaks about faith. That doesn't diminish the Church's calling. Rather, we are reminded that we should look for signs of God's kingdom in unexpected places and to join in with what God is already doing. The repeated phrase, "*I am the Lord, and there is no other*" can sound uncompromising to modern ears, but we can hear it as an invitation to trust. In a world where so many voices compete for our attention, God alone remains faithful. Political leaders come and go. Economic circumstances rise and fall. Public opinion shifts. But God remains. So let's hope that these reflections encourage honest

conversations, reminding us that even in seasons of uncertainty, God's presence remains our greatest security.

Trusting God will give you peace,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events



We began our new term this week. It was lovely to see babies began moving around in our hall!



Morning Tea @ Settler's

Next meeting: Wednesday **18th Nov** at **10 am** at Settler's lounge.

Confirmation Service

Bishop Ross is able to offer a confirmation service at **St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell on Sunday 6th December at 5pm**. If you are interested in taking this opportunity, please let Yukiko know by the end of October. (Several people from our parishes have already shown their interest!)

Mark in your Diary:

Feast of All Saints: Sunday 1 November for both parishes.

Parish dinner (pencil it in your diary!)

14th Nov (Saturday) at Holy Cross. Starting at 6:30

Please note: the date has been changed as 7th Nov will be an election night!

If you can, bring a plate to share... bearing in mind the only things you have to bring are yourself, a good appetite, and a sense of fun! We will provide drinks and some food. There are some nice live music performances during the night.

Please feel free to invite your family, friends, and those who have come to our parishes!

There is a sign-up sheet at Holy Cross and St. Michael's (next week). Please write your name, the number of people who attend, any diet requirements, and the dish you could bring.

AGM: Sunday 22 November after the Eucharist at Holy Cross.

We're Auckland Angels this Christmas!

This year in the lead up to Christmas, we will be collecting gifts and food for the Auckland City Mission as part of their Auckland Angels fundraiser. From next Sunday, please bring along donations of new, unwrapped and non-battery operated gifts, or



non-perishable, alcohol free food items. There will be a place to leave donations outside the office on Sundays.

You can also donate online on our Auckland Angels webpage which you can find using the below link or by scanning the QR code.

<https://donate.aucklandcitymission.org.nz/s/4840/5174>

We pray for:

- Communities under strain from the impacts of the (Super) El Niño — that they would have the time and means to prepare, and that the worst of the weather would ease.
- every individual voter, asking God to grant them discernment and wisdom for this coming election in Aotearoa.
- those who are suffering in sickness in our parishes
- Our local community in Albany and Greenhithe

This Week's Bible Question

What does Paul know about the Thessalonians? Their..

A. election of God B. works C. love D. faith

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Holy Holy Holy

Gradual: E te Atua

Offertory: Breathe on me, breath of God

Closing: Great is thy Faithfulness

Sentence for the day

For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.

(Isaiah 45: 4)

Readings

18th October

1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

25th October

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

90:1-6,13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

Summary of the Scriptures

1st Reading: The news that Babylon has been overthrown by Cyrus heralds the promise of the release of the exiled Jews there and their return to Israel.

2nd Reading: The fledgling church Paul established in Thessalonica is encouraged by this letter.

Gospel: The Pharisees test Jesus with a question about paying taxes to the Roman emperor. Jesus' response leaves them amazed.

Collect for the Day

Holy God,
You have made us in your image,
And we belong to you alone.
Therefore we offer ourselves to you, in service, love, and praise.
Use us for the glory of your realm
And the good of your people
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Liturgical Colour: Green

This Week's Bible Question Answer: A

Rosters

<u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>18 Oct</u>	<u>25 Oct</u>
Sacristan	Karenne	Dorothy
Welcomer	Barry	Alison
1 Readings	Patrick	John
2 Readings	Diana	Valerie
Presiding	Cheen/Yukiko	Les
Prayers	Robert	Cheen
TV Setup & Slides	Gary	Patrick
Morning Tea	Gary & Linda	Trish & Karenne
Flowers	Ria	Diana
Music	Yukiko	Trish
<u>St Michaels</u>	<u>18 Oct</u>	<u>25 Oct</u>
Prayers	Bruce	Bruce
Readings	Bruce	Brian
Presiding	Bruce	Les

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