Meg's Crumbs;

Biblical interpretation is a funny thing and a fine art. There are so many factors that go into how someone will read and understand any given passage from the Bible. I believe no one person reads and understands the Bible like another. We bring our prejudices, our learning, our upbringing, our priorities, our spiritual experiences, our worldview, our politics, our dreams and our challenges with us when we open the Bible to seek God's word. We are quick to judge other's interpretations now and of old. Time is the greatest factor that has affected or changed how people read the Bible. One of the influences of time is the ever growing knowledge and understanding of humanity. We look back to the start of the New Testament and into the Old Testament and interpret through the lens of a modern society with technology and science and explain why some things are written as they are in the Bible because it was a more underdeveloped humanity trying to understand God's incredible world they found themselves in. In Matthew we hear of Jesus healing a boy of the demon that throws him about and gives him fits. We can look back today and recognise what was probably epilepsy. It doesn't change the awesomeness of the miracle, but it offers us clearer insights than people 2000 years ago. I pray earnestly it is not that long, but if Jesus returns not until another 2000 years have passed what will the people of those days think about how we read and understand scripture I wonder?

Manaakitia koutou

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:42,44

Prayer of the day;

E te Matua,
kaua mātou āu pononga e tukua kia amuamu
engari i runga i ngā harikoa a te tamariki
e hari nei mōu,
e mahi ana i roto i te ngākau koa.
Ko Īhu Karaiti tō mātou Kaihoko.
Āmine.

Father
let us not serve you grudgingly like slaves,
but with the gladness of children
who delight in you
and rejoice in their work;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Sunday's Readings;

Amos 5:18-4
1 Thess 4:13-18
Matt 25:1-13

Prayer for the Week;

Within our parish we pray for financial stability in people's lives and the life of the parish. We pray also for stability in the mental and physical health of all in the parish. In the community around us we pray for all those young and old(er) who finishing assignments and sitting exams at school and beyond. May your Holy Spirit refresh their memories, inspire their words and calm their hearts.

Notices

RAFFLE ITEMS

St Johns is hosting a Christmas Market on 5th December 2026. We would like to ask if anyone has an item they would like to donate towards a raffle basket prize. Any donations can be handed into the office or into the box at the back of the church.

VESTRY MEETING

The next vestry meeting is on Tuesday, 10th November 2026. If you have a concern or question, pop it in writing to the office by Monday 9th November 2026.

ROSTER AVAILABILITY

Do you know your availability for December 2026 and January 2027?
A DRAFT ROSTER HAS BEEN DONE UP IN THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHECK IT.
The plan is to get these out to everyone early November 2026.

CHURCH EXTERIOR CLEANING

Due to unfavourable weather, the church is yet to be cleaned. This will keep rolling to the following Tuesday until the weather is able to make this happen.

AAW

The next AAW meeting is on 17th November at 2 pm in the church.
This is the AGM. No sales table but bring an item for the Market Day Raffle in December.

A plate, please for afternoon tea.

Nominations for Committee members to Helen by 8th November.

CHRISTMAS LILLIES

You may remember that the Christmas services last year had some lovely White Lillies flower arrangements in the Church. These Lillies were purchased with donations from the congregation, who did so in memory of a loved one.
We are planning to do this again.
If you would like to partake, please do so via an envelope or direct debit. Make sure that you put a reference of lillies by Monday, 7th December 2026. And let the office know who you would like your donation dedicated to, this will appear in the Christmas Service booklet running from Midnight Mass to the 27th December 2026.

OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Monday, 16 th November 2026. The office will re-open Tuesday 17th Novmeber 2026.

CONTACT US:

Vicar: Rev Meg Harvey
vicar@stjohnstimaru.co.nz

People's Warden: Hilary McKnight
027 363 2990

St John's Safeguarding Contact:
Clare Hilder
clare.hilder4@gmail.com

Parish Admin: Phone: (03) 688 9213
admin@stjohnstimaru.co.nz,
warden@stjohnstimaru.co.nz

Office hours: Office hours: Monday - Wednesday. 10:30am to 12:30pm