

Alan's Crumbs;

Dear friends,

We are nearing the end of 'Ordinary Time' as we approach Advent Sunday in just two weeks, with the 'Feast of Christ the King' next Sunday! Things are certainly 'hotting up' as very soon we begin our focus on Advent which concentrates on both the First and Second Coming of Christ into the world.

Last week's Gospel focused on 'The 10 Virgins' five of whom were foolish and five of whom we wise. Today's Gospel also calls us to being prepared and looking to the future to which God has called us.

Today's reading challenges to be wise about the decisions we make today, which will have lasting and eternal consequences for all of us. It's really about Stewardship; in other words, the use of our time, treasures and talents which are gifts from a loving and generous God.

Will we be wise and careful stewards of all that God has given, or invested in us, or do we become so carefree and casual that we end up squandering what God has entrusted to us?

The decision is ours to make daily and the result is clear and decisive, black and white, with no room for frivolity and certainly with no areas of grey!

May God guide and lead us as we weigh up the seriousness of today's reading.
With all my love and prayers for my dear friends at St. John's, Alan.

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Prayer of the day;

E Īhu, ka īnoi mātou ki a koe,
tangohia te wai tawhito,
ā mātou ngākau pukumahi hoki,
hurihia hei wāina rongopai
kia kitea ai e te katoa tōu oranga
ka mate hiainu;
mō te korōria o tōu ingoa tapu.
Āmine.

We pray you, Jesus,
take the old water, our busy conscientious lives,
and turn them into gospel wine,
that everyone may see your life and thirst;
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

Sunday's Readings;

Zeph 1:7, 12-18
1 Thess 5:1-11
Matt 25:14-30

Prayer for the Week;

Within our parish we pray for our own personal ministries. May we find joy in our service and thank God for our skills and knowledge. And may we listen to that still small voice when we need to pass our ministries on to others guided and comforted by the Holy Spirit. Outside our parish we pray those facing retirement and the joys and troubles that may bring. Help retirees to find their new place in society and Timaru.

Notices

HEALTH SHUTTLE

A St John Health Shuttle service is available to the South Canterbury Community, to provide transport to those who have health related appointments in Christchurch. We cover Timaru, Pleasant Point, Temuka and Geraldine. In most cases we will pick you up from your home. The shuttle operates Monday to Friday and bookings need to be made by 3pm the day prior to your appointment. This service is run by a team of very experienced drivers who are volunteers of St John. A Donation/Koha is appreciated for the shuttle transport to help cover the cost as we do not charge a fee. For further information or to make a booking. Please phone 0800 103 046

OFFICE CLOSED

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

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; these items will be put together to make hampers (potentially a grocery/household or children's - this will depend on what is received). Any donations can be handed into the office or into the box at the back of the church.

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.

LOVE ALONES

Meet for a 12 noon lunch on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact Hilary McKnight for further information if you would like to attend.

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, 7 th 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 27 th December 2026.

CONTACT US:

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

People's Warden: Hilary McKnight
027 363 2990

St John's Safeguarding Contact:
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Office hours: Monday - Wednesday.
10:30am to 12:30pm

Parish Bank Account: St John's Parish of Highfield Kensington & Otipua 03-0887-0021901-001