



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 29 December

“Being the Gospel to all People”

A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

Today's theme: Christmas 1

Focus Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

Readings: Psalm 148; Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18



Of all the Sundays of the year, the one following Christmas might present the greatest challenge. Many are tired from the lead-up and the Christmas festivities, or worn down by the demands and expectations of family. Others will be busy with holiday plans, or post-Christmas sales. The focus text Psalm 148 falls into our laps like a gift and we can let go and experience God's presence and goodness in creation.

Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV) The Escape to Egypt ³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” ^[b]

The Return to Nazareth ¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.” ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. Glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sunday Worship: 5 January 2014

Theme: Christmas 2, Epiphany

Focus Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Other Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians:1-12

Prayer Points: Sheila as she recovers from her shoulder operation; George Morrison as he recovers from the removal of a growth on his kidney; Marie Davis for her recovery with her ongoing hip issues, John Pybus for the serious bruising on his leg, Steven Chaplin for a speedy recovery (shoulder/s) after being squished between a car and a bus, while riding his bike home from work, and for the car driver. Joy Rzoska with her ongoing medical concerns whilst in hospital.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Our Christmas Donation's for 2013 are for the Sea Ambulance Boat for the Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands. Leadership Team also agreed that we will add the 10% Thanksgiving Offering donation to what is given as cash offerings in our Christmas Services.



Dr. Graham Longbottom says the needs are to repair the boat, improve the canoe shed with slipway winches and simple solar power system. Costs est. \$ NZ\$ 42,000.

The Sea Ambulance is the only way of transferring patients for advanced medical treatment in the nearest provincial hospital in Gizo. It takes 1 hour and 30 minutes by sea ambulance in normal condition. Our support from New Zealand will be of help to improve this facility. With your contribution to the fund you can be a participant in this mission.

Our Web site is up and running – go on line and have a look www.stjohnsbb.org.nz

CHURCH TV : This week on www.anglicantv.net Thank you for your wonderful support during the year, it has been great working with you. There will be no Bulletin this week.

REAL LIFE: This Sunday night there will be no bulletin. Thank you for a wonderful year.

State of St John's financial position at the 30/11/2013

	Month of November 2013		1 July 2013 → 30 November 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	13,470.38	17,997.00	73,859.34	86,249.00
INCOME	12,523.19	14,977.00	79,734.41	80,198.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	(947.19)	(3,020.00)	5,875.07	(6,051.00)

Comments (November):

- **"Free Will Offerings" for the month of November** fell short of Budget by (\$1,733.17).
- **"Free Will Offerings" for the five months [year to-date]** are short of Budget by (\$5,560.95).
- The significant reduction in funds received over the first five months of this financial has seriously affected St John's cash flow.
- For the first time in several years we had to defer payment of several invoices at the close of November. These invoices have been held over for payment in December.
- Early forecasting of Offerings and other income for the month of December indicates that cash flow will be extremely tight again. There is a significant risk that further deferment of payment of expenses for the months of December and January will be necessary. The Finance Team are reviewing the situation regularly.

Please continue to pray for an improvement in our immediate financial situation while continuing to give thanks to our wondrously gracious LORD for the gifts that he bestows upon us here at St Johns.