

***The Anglican Parish of Lower Hutt  
December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 to January 2024***

***NAUMAI, HAERE MAI! MALO E LELEI! TALOFA! 欢迎 (HUĀN YÍNG!)  
Welcome all who are with us in person or on Zoom***

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**December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023**

**Sentence:** “My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” Luke 2: 30-32

**Collect:** Holy and eternal God,  
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us  
to learn from the simple trust of children;  
give us pure hearts and steadfast faith  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

**Today's Readings** Galatians 4: 4-7  
Luke 2: 15-21

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**January 7<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Sentence:** “They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him.” Matthew 2: 11

**Collect:** Jesus, light of the world,  
let your bright star stand over the place  
where the poor have to live;  
lead our sages to wisdom  
and our rulers to reverence.  
Hear this prayer for your love's sake.  
**Amen.**

**Today's Readings** Ephesians 3: 1-12  
Matthew 2: 1-12

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**January 14<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Sentence:** "We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of Israel!" John 1: 41-49

**Collect:** Praise to you God for all your work among us.  
Yours is the vigour in creation,  
Yours is the impulse in our new discoveries.  
Make us adventurous, yet reverent and hopeful in all we do.  
Hear this prayer for your love's sake.  
**Amen.**

**Today's Readings** 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20  
John 1: 43-51

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**January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024**

**Sentence:** "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1: 15

**Collect:** Jesus, our Redeemer,  
give us your power to reveal and proclaim the good news  
so that wherever we may go  
the sick may be healed, lepers embraced,  
and from the dead and dying given new life;  
for the glory of your holy name.  
**Amen.**

**Today's Readings** 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31  
Mark 1: 14-20

**Welcome to all who are worshipping with us!**

**We are so pleased you are joining the services today.**

The Common Cup is offered to all at our communion services.  
You may decline a sip if you do not want drink from this cup.

**Please note, NO dipping of wafers or bread.**

## Offerings Processes in 2024

The Vicar recently outlined the work that Vestry has been doing in looking at the Mission Action Plan and planning ahead. It has covered how to spend our money in a way that will help us get where we want to go.

We reviewed our office staffing and administrative processes, received feedback from parishioners over the past year, and observed current practices in some other parishes. Based on this work, we will be refining the way regular and one-off financial giving is handled in our parish in 2024.

### This means:

- We will cease passing the offering bag/plate around during services from 1 January 2024. The Priest will still pray for God's gifts in the services.
  - Very few people actually give using the current method and
  - it causes embarrassment for the majority of parishioners who give electronically, new people who may not be ready to give, and to visitors to the church
- An offertory/donation box will be set up at the back of each church where regular or one-off giving done on the day can be discretely collected.
  - The process for counting/recording on each site will remain with minor changes. We will work with those rostered on each service.

### We want to work towards the regular or one-off giving to be electronic.

- The amount of work by paid staff and volunteers needed to handle cash giving erodes over 10% of the value of any cash received.
- The banking process takes around 5 hours per banking, not including the time spent counting and securing cash at the end of our various services.
- There are health and safety (and personal) risks to parishioners / staff handling the cash, transporting it from All Saints to St James and transferring it to our local Bank branch.

### We will help:

- To assist moving towards electronic giving. We have people available to parishioners who would like assistance with setting up an automatic payment or any other electronic giving methods available.
- More information will be provided in the new year. If you have any queries about stopping the passing of the plate, your weekly cash donation, or setting up an electronic banking deposit please talk with the following people:
  - **Margaret Miller** for the 8am Service at St James
  - **Lorraine Kilpatrick** for the 9am Service at All Saints
  - **Phil Mackenzie** or **Michael Beauchamp** for the 10am Service at St James

Send your donations to: St James' Church (BNZ): 02-0528-0045901-00

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## Services between December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 to January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024

<b>8am</b>	Eucharist, St James' Church
<b>9am</b>	Morning Worship, All Saints Church Eucharist, All Saints Church

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### Upcoming activities/ events

<b>January 28 10am</b>	Blessing of the backpacks During the 10am Service, Rev Annette will bless the backpacks of our school children and (adult) workers. If you'd like to have your backpack blessed, please come to the service with your backpack.
<b>February 11 10am</b>	Suzanne Duncan Thanksgiving Service A service to remember Suzanne Duncan and to welcome our new scholars. This will be during the 10am. A catered morning tea will follow the service. We invite past scholars to join us at this service.

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