



# MARKINGS

## St Mark's Anglican Parish Te Aroha

**Archdeacon:** Ven Val Riches

**Priest-in-Charge:** Rev. Geoff Lamason 0220807297

**Permission to Officiate:** Rev. Joan Power 8847058

**Permission to Officiate:** Rev. Ian Harrop 8849292

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*Knowing + Sharing Christ's Aroha*

**7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

**THEME:** The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**



**READINGS INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Isaiah 60:1-6.** Arise, shine, for the light has come; gold and frankincense will come from Seba.

**Psalms 72:1-7,10-15.** The Kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts; all nations give him service.

**Ephesians 3:1-12.** Paul, the least of all, is called to bring the Gentiles the good news of Christ.

**Matthew 2:1-12.** Magi from the East bring gifts to the newborn Jesus.

***Next week's readings:***

*1 Samuel 3:1-20. Psalm 139:1-5,12-18. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. John 1:43-51*

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<b>JAN</b>	<b>COMMEMORATIONS</b>	<b>EVENTS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Sun 7</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	<b>10am</b> Combined Communion with St David's at St Mark's. Rev Geoff Lamason
<b>Sat 13</b>	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, c.367.	
<b>Sun 14</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	<b>10am</b> Combined Communion with St David's at St Mark's. Rev Geoff Lamason

**We pray for** Jemima, Jenny, Elaine, Gloria & Brian, Beverley, Jaimee & her family, Tom & Corolyn, Jann, her son Dan & son-in-law Maarten, Dorothy, Chrissy, Rori.

*If you wish to add a name to the prayer list for the next 4 weeks, please contact Geoff (022 080 7297,) or Pat (8849182)*

We give thanks for the long life and service of Raywin, and pray for the Davey family.

**IN THE MISSION FIELD we pray for** the Anglican Church of Melanesia: the Melanesian Brotherhood, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, Community of the Sisters of the Church, the Society of St Francis.

**IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND we pray for**

- **The Province:** The Diocese of Auckland.
- **Our Diocese:** Clergy, People and Communities of Kawhia, Mangakino, Matamata, Melville.
- **Our Community:** Scout Association, Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade.
- **Our Parish:** All on the Parish Roll, Restoration Team.

**REMINDER:** St Mark's will join with St David's congregation during January. We will host St David's for the first two Sundays, and they will host us for the second two Sundays – a wonderful example of Christian unity.

Each of the services at St David's will include Holy Communion.

On Sunday January 21 the Service will be followed by morning tea and then a BBQ in the Peace garden. The Service on January 28 will also be followed by morning tea.

For those wishing to stay for the BBQ, please bring your own meat and if possible salad or dessert to share. The meat can be put in the fridge until needed.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Pat & Mick Elley on 10<sup>th</sup> – 61 years



**ST MARK'S MATTERS;**

*Prayer and the oil of anointing are always available after services – just ask the priest or members of the healing team.*



† **VISITING:** If you know that a parishioner is unwell, please contact Geoff 022 080 7297, or Joan 884 7058.

**WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY**

- Sun 14** 10am Combined Service with St David's at St Mark's  
**Sun 21** 10 am Combined Service with St David's at St David's  
(followed by a barbecue)  
**Sun 28** 10 am Combined Service with St David's at St David's

**From Vestry:**

- The Parish AGM will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 after the 10am service.
- Domain Day will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**RESTORATION NEWS from June:**

We still have ten Peace Memorial cups available. There were only 50 ordered so they could be a collectors' item in years to come.

**A PRAYER FOR THE RESTORATION TEAM.**

God of compassion and grace;  
grant wisdom, insight, and creativity to the team as they work to raise funding for the restoration of St Mark's Church, Te Aroha. May they be encouraged by our and the wider community's support and co-operation, be it be through word or action, so that together St Mark's becomes a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who live in our district. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



**A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE**

O Lord, God of life, as you care for all creation, give us your peace. May our security come not from weapons, but from respect. May our strength come not from violence, but from love. May our wealth come not from money, but from sharing.

May our path be not one of ambition, but of justice. May our victory not be one of revenge, but one of forgiveness. Unarmed and confident, help us to defend the dignity of all creation, sharing today and always the bread of solidarity and peace. Amen.

*Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

## THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS.

It may seem surprising that only Matthew, the most Jewish of the Evangelists, records this visit: Gentiles, possibly even astrologers, coming to worship the infant Jesus and bearing obscure and opulent gifts. Yet both aspects fulfilled prophetic oracles and foreshadowed a world-wide church. The visit almost became counter-productive when Herod was alerted to this newborn king; to the tyrant's warped, jealous mind even such a child constituted an unacceptable threat, whether directly or as a focus of messianic aspirations. Nevertheless, the child was kept safe when God again directed the Magi – this time by a dream, not a star.

*RSCM Sunday by Sunday*

### **Psalm 72:1-7,10-15. A psalm of Solomon.**

1 Give your love of justice to the king, O God, and righteousness to the king's son.

**2 Help him judge your people in the right way; let the poor always be treated fairly.**

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for all, and may the hills be fruitful.

**4 Help him to defend the poor, to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors.**

5 May they fear you as long as the sun shines, as long as the moon remains in the sky. Yes, forever!

**6 May the king's rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly cut grass, like the showers that water the earth.**

7 May all the godly flourish during his reign. May there be abundant prosperity until the moon is no more.

**10 The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring him tribute. The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts.**

11 All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.

**12 He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them.**

13 He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them.

**14 He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him.**

15 Long live the king! May the gold of Sheba be given to him. May the people always pray for him and bless him all day long.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

*Thought for the week:*

*Turn to God's light and your shadows will fall behind you.*