



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021



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## The Rubbish Challenge: 10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months



### Current Step) May: DISPOSABLES

Bible verse | Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**'Big Idea'** | Cheap and convenient is not always good! If we take into account the long-term cost of plastic waste, cheap disposable items are actually very costly. They do harm to creation. Doing what we know is wrong is sin, and damages our relationship with God.

Question - for reflection & discussion | How do you respond to the challenge that buying cheap throw-away things is wrong, even a sin?

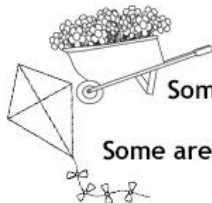
### Action Step for May

Review what single-use items you buy. When do disposables seem a good option?

- for large numbers of people
- for picnics and outside events
- for hygiene reasons

Explore alternatives. Choose to stop buying throw-away items such as cups or plastic cutlery.

<https://www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html>



## A piece of thoughtful nonsense.

Some Christians are like wheelbarrows - no good unless pushed.

Some are like kites - if you don't keep a string on them they fly away.



Some are like kittens - only content when petted.



Some are like balloons - full of air and ready to blow up.

Others are like a good watch - open face, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.



One of the Lectionary readings for Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> | John 15: 1 - 8

Theme: The fruits of faith, whether they are good works, large or small, are accomplished not by personal strength nor human will, but by the spiritual strength that comes through those who abide in Christ.



What can be accomplished when God's people abide in Christ. There is no limit. Jesus promises, "ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" {15:7} While common sense dictates that we will not have everything our way, we can take this promise seriously. God turns people's lives around. God draws blessings out of the most tragic events. God heals some unexpectedly and brings great faith to others who pleas for healing are not granted as desired.. These are general examples, but they can be made specific when local stories are told by the preacher who has visited people in their homes and hospital rooms, has caught a vision of what God wants for the Parish churches. Has presided over funerals, weddings, baptisms and remembrances of tragic national events.

On a larger scale, how can there ever be an end to war or injustice or hunger. Apart from Christ, human attempts at peace and justice are empty schemes and are fraught with failure. But prayer and faithful work by those who abide in Christ are powerful forces in the world. The great example of this, is the overthrow of apartheid in South Africa. This was a battle fought with love. One side used weapons of war, the other used weapons of the Spirit. God's people prayed and worked for justice and laid their lives on the line. In the end goodness triumphed. It was a human victory, but it was God's battle plan, and the chief weapon was love. The world desperately needs to remember this victory. It is a model for any struggle for justice in the world. Apart from Christ, all efforts will falter. In his love, no evil can prevail.

Prayer. Nourishing God, wellspring of life, you give us everything we need to sustain our lives. But we cannot live as you desire unless you give us even more, the power of your love. Graft us into Christ and let into our barren existence the surging power of your Holy Spirit. Make us green, growing, and loving branches. Cluster the fruits of our labours in Christ and press them into a love that flows into the world. We pray in the name of Christ, the vine. Amen.

Taken from a resource written by Clayton J Schmit

### St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | A time for friendship, fun, and support. Welcome to all pre-school children.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being..



On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April St. Andrew's had "A Creative Time". We started with some Music fun, then moved on to crafts and flax weaving, and ending with creating our own sandwiches. What a fun time with friends.

### St. John's Methven

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May | Everyone is welcome to Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St. John's. 10:30 am

Combined Plains Parish worship along with All Saint's Anglican congregation

Donations of Produce (both perishable and non-perishable) will be given to Methven House.

Lunch to follow – please join us and bring either finger food to share or a gold coin.

Leading our Worship Rev. John Titlow



#### May Sunday Services

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 am	St. John's Methven   Harvest Thanksgiving Service	Rev. John Titlow
9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am 10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow Rev. Neville Burns



Lord have mercy – we confess to you: we like what is easy and convenient.

Christ have mercy – we ask of you: renew our lives to live your way.

Lord have mercy – we offer to you all we value and choose and buy to the praise of your glorious grace.

Amen