



Anglican Care
AUCKLAND



On Sunday July 22 Anglicans across Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia will celebrate Social Service Sunday. This annual commemoration offers us the opportunity to remember and to celebrate the myriad of ways Anglicans are reaching out to loving service throughout our province.

Each year, though the Anglican Care Network one of the Tikanga Pakeha Dioceses puts together some resources for worship on this day. The theme chosen by the Auckland Diocese for Social Service Sunday is: Gifted by God: Inspired to serve. Resources are now available on the Auckland Diocese website www.auckanglican.org.nz/?sid=975.

They invite us to pause to consider the many ways God cares for us and meets our needs. As we give thanks for God's gracious provision in our lives we are reminded of the call to share what we have with others and to stand in solidarity with those who are on the margins of our society. We are inspired to love and care for others because God first loves us.

It is so easy to feel overwhelmed by the need we see around us and by the gospel imperative to respond. This scale of the task can paralyse our efforts to help and lead us to a sense of frustration – with the situation itself and with those who find themselves in need of our help. The reality of others' need can threaten our own sense of comfort and entitlement. This can be very uncomfortable. By focusing on what we have received by grace, we hope that our church will be encouraged and inspired to be a part of God's transformational action in the world.