

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

12 April 2020 (*Easter Day*)

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Welcome to our third *email* Newsletter. *All* our OCP worship services, activities and meetings have been either postponed or cancelled until further notice. With Alert Level 4 for COVID-19 pandemic continuing, we all must STAY AT HOME. Church services, activities and meetings will resume only when we get the “all clear” from the NZ Government, authorised by our national church bodies and confirmed by our OCP church ministers.

For those who can, please forward this to your church groups and/or friends. Many thanks!

If this email has been forwarded to you from someone on our current address list, please email guyan@xtra.co.nz so you can be added to our “master” list. Then you can receive the Newsletter direct.

EASTER DAY Sunday 12 April **Bible Readings** Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, Acts 10: 34-43
Colossians 3: 1-4, Gospel of John 20: 1-18

A reflection from Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio

“This is the day of the Lord’s victory. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” These are the words of the Psalmist that we echo and shout out loud. *“Jesus is risen. He has risen indeed.”*

The tomb is empty. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene with the news *“Go and tell.”* Jesus returns to the Father, and he meets the disciples, and later commissions them to *“go to all the world and make them my disciples.”* We are followers of Jesus because of the faith of his disciples. We must go forth to bring others to Jesus.

You and I are new beings, with Christ in our lives. Paul’s words to the Church in Colossae, *“your real life is in Christ; when he appears you will appear with him.”*

All we can say and do is: *“Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good, and his love is eternal.”*

Have a blessed Easter. Jesus is risen. Alleluia. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS

A reminder to those with internet access: Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio presents weekly online Sunday Devotions... Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/> at 9am. The PCANZ website also repeats the Devotions later.

Some church members have said they would like to make their offerings by direct credit online rather than “catching up” much later. The Onehunga Co-operating Parish account is ANZ **060 209 0093 105 00**. If you would like to do this please identify your giving with your Offering Envelope *number*, and/or your family *name*. We have now come to the end of the financial year for church offerings. Charitable donations receipts for tax claims will be delayed until we are able to process them from the Parish Office. We all need to be very patient!

A prayer for today (*thanks to the Wesley Chapel community*)

In this time of uncertainty and distress, keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

You are the lamp that shines and the food that sustains.

You are the hope of tomorrow and the one who restores.

You are the love that forgives and the truth that endures.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort, and be blessed by the care of others;

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.