

# Onehunga Co-operating Parish

# NEWSLETTER

19 April 2020 (*Easter 2*)

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Parish Minister: **Rev Kaurasi Lagi** - Phone 834.5222

Associate Minister: **Rev Murray McMeikan** - Phone 636.0230 Associate Minister: **Rev Peter Wedde** - Phone 636.0673

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**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](mailto:guyan@xtra.co.nz) so you can be added to our “master” list. Then you can receive the Newsletter direct.

**Sunday 19 April Bible Readings** Psalm 16, Acts 2: 14a, 22-32, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 3-9, Gospel of John 20: 19-31

## ***A reflection from Rev Murray McMeikan***

Easter Day has come and gone. With the disciples and followers of Jesus we find we are in a time of waiting. There is tension in the air – joy and peace when Jesus is there, bewilderment and concern when he isn't. Perhaps Jesus was preparing his followers (more than just the Twelve) for his final departure: the Ascension, Acts 1: 6-14. And so it was a time of waiting; they went back to Jerusalem and worshipped, in the breaking of bread and prayers, remembering the promise of Jesus that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them. Pentecost has yet to come.

And so we wait. Many are still dying from the Coronavirus. Too quick a return to “normal” would be to see more deaths. We need to be patient, keep safe. In the various plagues through history it was the Christians who led the way in compassion and help, while others fled. We do not know what the world will be like when this is all over, but the risen Lord is here. His Holy Spirit is with us.

Many years ago the parish I was in had built a new church. People had worked hard and were tired when it was all finished. ‘Now we can have a good rest’ they said. But I had to say no, this is not the end, just the beginning, for now we are able to reach out and proclaim the gospel, just as the disciples did. They went out into all the world with the message of salvation. May we put our trust in Christ, for he died for the world and rose again, to be with his world in the life of the Spirit. Peace be with us all.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

A reminder for 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.

Our loving sympathy and prayers for **Lagi** and **Fred Roebeck** and family. We have heard that Lagi's sister passed away last week.

We received this email from **Rev Petra Zaleski** last Saturday: *Dear friends at Onehunga Co-operating Parish... We so missed joining with you on Good Friday! May God keep you and bless you through these days, and in the Spirit, it is good to know we are all one in the unity of Christ. All Easter joy and blessings to you from your friends at St Peter's (Anglican Church, Onehunga) Petra*

And from **Father Talipope Vaifale** on behalf of the Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church: *Hope you are well and safely in your own bubble in this difficult time as we experience the outbreak of Covid-19. We had all our celebrations during Lent, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Thanks to God for this new technology that helps us live stream our celebrations for our parishioners to participate in. Hope you did the same. We now sing Alleluia and say “It is true, that the Lord has truly risen”. **Happy Easter to you, your families and your parishioners. United always in prayer.***

A prayer from **Rev Kaurasi Lagi** based on Psalm 103 **“He renews and redeems our lives”**

Thank you, O God, that no matter what we are up against, your promises stand true. Often, when we are facing hard seasons, it may seem easier to complain about everything than to offer you praise. Yet all of these verses remind us again of all we can be thankful for. Your lasting truths never change, based on how we are doing day by day, or what we may be walking through at any particular time. You are our sure foundation. You are compassionate and gracious: your love for us is so great. Thank you for your forgiveness and the blessings you have given us in our lives. We love you Lord. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.