

# Onehunga Co-operating Parish

# NEWSLETTER

26 April 2020 (*Easter 3*)

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**COVID-19 update** NZ moves to Alert Level 3 this Tuesday for at least two weeks. We must still stay at home unless we are in “essential” work which cannot be done online. Schools will reopen for those who cannot learn from home. We must continue to wash our hands regularly, keep two metres away from all outside our “bubble” and only drive to the local supermarket or chemist. Takeaway meals can be ordered and picked up without face-to-face contact. Sadly, joining in church worship together is still some way off. Our grateful thanks to Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio who continues with his much appreciated “devotions” online each Sunday morning. Also to Rev Kaurasi Lagi and our Associate Ministers for their contributions to this Newsletter. Please continue to keep in touch with your church friends by phone or email.

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

**Sunday 26 April Bible Readings** Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19, Acts 2: 14a, 36-41,  
1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 17-23, Gospel of Luke 24: 13-35

*A reflection from Rev Kaurasi Lagi* ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS *Luke 24: 13-35*

We have before us this morning one of the most powerful and insightful accounts of our Lord's appearances after His resurrection. Luke is the only one of the four gospel writers to include this story. It is a story that reveals to us not only something about who we are, but how Jesus opens our eyes to see Him for who He is, and about how we can come to know Him.

The journey to Emmaus is both a literal and a spiritual journey. On one hand it recounts the story of two disciples who, after the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, walk seven miles (11.2 km) from Jerusalem to their village of Emmaus. On the other hand, it outlines for us the journey that we all take from not recognising Jesus, to understanding what the Scripture says about Him, to recognising Him for who He is, and finally to our giving witness to what we have experienced.

It was only as they had fellowship with Jesus that He disclosed Himself to them. Jesus reveals Himself to those whose eyes He has opened through the truths of His Word.

It is not without significance that it is around the supper table that the disciples' eyes are opened, and they see Jesus for who He really is. After the resurrection, many of the appearances of Jesus are associated with table fellowship. This is true here: in Luke 24: 41-43, in Acts 1: 4, and in John 21: 9-15. In the intimacy of fellowship Jesus reveals Himself to us. His working in our lives becomes clearer, and His provision and protection come into focus.

*May God be with us all during this time of lock down by staying safe and staying focussed on the risen Christ.*

## 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.

**A prayer in “lockdown”** *“The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked.” John 20: 19*  
*(with thanks to the Wesley Chapel Community)*

Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar, that when the doors reopen, we may, with the zeal of Pentecost, inhabit our communities, and speak of your goodness to an emerging world. For Jesus' sake, Amen.