

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

5 April 2020 (*Palm Sunday*)

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Welcome to our second *email* Newsletter. All our OCP worship services, activities and meetings have been postponed or cancelled until further notice. With Alert Level 4 for COVID-19 pandemic continuing, we all need to **STAY AT HOME**. Church services, activities and meetings will resume only when we get the “all clear” from the NZ Government and are authorised by our national church bodies and confirmed by our local 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 our current address list, please email guyan@xtra.co.nz so you can be added to our “master” list.

Daylight saving ends this Sunday 5 April. Put clocks and watches **BACK 1 hour** on Saturday night before bed...

Sunday 5 April Readings Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Philippians 2: 5-11, Gospel of Matthew 21: 1-11

A reflection from Rev Kaurasi Lagi “TRIUMPHAL ENTRY”

Our Gospel reading today is taken from Matthew 21: 1-11 where Jesus asks two of his disciples to “*Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.*”

A question we may ask ourselves, why would Jesus choose a donkey and not a horse? Perhaps it was because donkeys were perceived as humble in nature. Kings rode neither colts nor donkeys, instead rode majestic horses that were well trained and responsive. They were seen to have more strength and spirit, more beautiful, large, impressive beasts in much the same way that people of power ride in expensive cars or private jets today.

Jesus the King of the Jews was a different kind of king. Just as a King’s horse sends a message about the man who rides it, the same would be said about Jesus choosing a donkey for this occasion. He came in peace and humility to serve His people. We also reflect on the freedom the donkey gained after being tied to the tree for many years. Today is Palm Sunday where we commemorate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

His journey ended on Mt Calvary where He made the ultimate sacrifice and gave His life for you and me and freed us from the bondage of sin. That is God’s greatest gift of love for us.

To close, let us reflect on these three points from today’s message. **Patience, Humility and Freedom**. As we journey together during these challenging times, being in lockdown due to this deadly virus, we may be in a state of panic, fear; children asking questions if this is the end of the world. These are unsettling times so let us turn our eyes to Jesus and the lessons he has taught us today. Let us be patient in everything that we do, let us show humility to each other, and above all know that we are free because our Lord and Saviour died for you and me.

“Stay safe, and let us remember each other in our prayers during this coming Holy Week.

Sending you all our love and blessings”. Rev Kaurasi Lagi and family

CHURCH NEWS

Our grateful thanks to Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio who presents online Sunday devotions so well! Go to: [https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/Sunday Devotions](https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/Sunday-Devotions), 9am. And there will be a Good Friday message for Onehunga Co-operating Parish on: www.facebook.com/onehungacooperatingparish

Congratulations to Mr Grand and Mrs Marta Mataora who were married just before the Covid-19 shutdown.

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. Yes, we all need to be very patient!

“Dear Church Family, do not let Coronavirus (Covid-19) get you down. Follow the Government guidelines. Isolation is crucial as we combat this intrusive, uninvited virus together. It is a good time for quality family time in your home and for your own care.” In our Parish Elder’s words: Stay home. Stay safe. Stay positive. Stay prayerful. Blessings! All our love and prayers. Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio