

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

10 May 2020 (*Easter 5*)

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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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Happy Mother's Day This day we give thanks for all our mothers and try to do something special to honour them. "*Mother*" is God's plan for humanity - for human life to be carried, born, nurtured and reared. It is a plan patterned in love since the beginning of creation.." Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio (PCANZ Moderator)

COVID-19 update NZ will be told this coming Monday if we remain at Alert Level 3 or change to Level 2. We will be guided by the NZ Government and our national church authorities on when we can safely meet again for worship. There is no doubt that "lockdown" and strict health guidelines for the past weeks have saved many NZ lives. Please continue to pray for all affected by Covid-19 worldwide. For those who can, please forward this Newsletter to your church groups and/or friends. *Many thanks!*

Sunday 10 May Bible Readings Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16, Acts 7: 55-60
1st Peter 2: 2-10, Gospel of John 14: 1-14

A reflection from Rev Murray McMeikan

The Scripture readings for today are both a challenge and a comfort to us.

The Acts reading (Acts 7: 55-60) tells us of the killing of Stephen for preaching the gospel. He was stoned to death by the angry crowd after preaching about Jesus, and we read about how Paul, then a persecutor of the Christians, was consenting to his death. Later, Paul found Christ, and was to be one of the greatest Apostles of the early church. Many of the letters in the New Testament bear his name. Psalm 31 speaks of God as our rock and fortress. We think of the hymn "Rock of ages, cleft for me". And 1st Peter 2: 2-10 tells us to be built as "living stones" into a spiritual house, with Christ as the chief cornerstone - foundation. And Jesus, in John 14 reminds us that he goes to prepare a place for us, and that he will come again and receive us to himself.

Stones figure in three of these passages. Stones are used for memorials, for those who have died, given their lives in war, and served their community and nation. Are we *memorial* stones or *living* stones, living in the sense of being witnesses for Christ? Can you name the one whose name is on the foundation stone of our Grey Street Church in Onehunga? Have a look next time you come to church.

In the meantime, God be with us all. Keep safe. Soifua!

CHURCH NEWS

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

Our grateful thanks to those who have made 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*. Your support for the church and generosity throughout the year is vital for our work and witness as a "faith community".

The end of the financial year for church offerings was 31 March. Receipts for church donations (which we can use for Inland Revenue tax credit claims) have been prepared from the Administrator's home office, and will be available when we can meet again.