

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

24 May 2020 (*Easter 7*)

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COVID-19 update NZ is still in Alert Level 2. Indoor gatherings (*including church worship services*) are limited to just a handful of people. Physical distancing and strict health measures still apply. Until these restrictions are eased, normal church services, meetings and activities cannot resume yet. Please continue to pray for all affected around the world by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Sunday 24 May Bible Readings Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35, Acts 1: 6-14

1st Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11, Gospel of John 17: 1-11

A reflection from Rev Kaurasi Lagi

*“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”
“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* John 16: 16, 33

These were Jesus’ words spoken to His Disciples when approaching His final time on earth. We then read in John 17: 1-11 that after that, Jesus prayed.

Today our reflection is about prayer. Prayer was a particularly important part of the life of Jesus. In His Ministry, He was always praying. Before feeding the 5,000 with fish and bread, He lifted it up to Heaven and prayed. He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. After a busy day He would go out to a quiet place and pray. Prayer was His way of connecting to the Father.

For us, it has been over 10 weeks since the lockdown. It has not been easy. We have not been able to attend our Church Services and we miss that. For some of us we have lost our jobs or are now working reduced hours. For others, it is the challenge of working from home and managing the children at the same time. We all have felt some impact on our lives due to Covid-19.

Our message for us today is about prayer and the connection that it is with our Father. In the words of the hymn “What a Friend we have in Jesus” – *“we should never be discouraged, but take it to the Lord in prayer”*.

My prayer for us today is that in everything that we do, take it to God in prayer. Amen.

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 repeats the Devotions later.

Well done! Thanks to the OCP Cook Island Youth Group who took the initiative to tidy up the Grey Street Church grounds and mow the lawns both there and at the Centennial Hall.

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”.