

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

3 May 2020 (*Easter 4*)

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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

Parish Secretary: Lepaimasina Warren - Phone 256.1987 *Parish Elder & Administrator: Keith Guyan* - Phone 524.2590

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COVID-19 update NZ is at Alert Level 3 for at least another week. We must still stay at home unless we are in “essential” work which cannot be done online. Schools are open for those who cannot learn from home. We must continue to wash our hands regularly, keep two metres away from all outside our “bubble.” 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 3 May Bible Readings Psalm 23, Acts 2: 42-47, 1st Peter 2: 19-25, Gospel of John 10: 1-10

A reflection from Rev Peter Wedde

Hello to all of you of the Onehunga Co-operating Parish, and any others who may read our Newsletter - Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, God be with you!

We continue to live as a nation and a church separated by regulations, but not by force, as some are, even today. Let's remember persecuted and oppressed people in our prayers: but for ourselves we willingly accept what is best for our nation, that is, living in our own “bubbles” for as long as our health advisers tell us. In the deepest sense, like any good family, we are still one in our thoughts for each other, and especially united when we pray to God.

So as we come to the fourth Sunday of Easter, we remember together Jesus the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep, as in the Gospel reading from John, chapter 10: 1-10. And in Acts 2: 42-47 we have the report on the beginning of the church after Peter first preached about Jesus rising again as Saviour and Lord.

We have Peter again in the reading from his first letter, chapter 2: 19-25, where he writes to churches where many of the members were slaves and so often mistreated. He inspires them with the example of Jesus, “the shepherd of our souls”, and he offers us the same inspiration, no matter how depressed or fed up we may feel.

The Psalm for today gathers up all these thoughts – how about sitting and testing yourself? Can you say “The Lord’s my Shepherd” right through – in your own language? Let’s try, knowing that we are all summing up the message of Sunday 3 May in the glorious words of Psalm 23! Sing it as well.

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. Sunday 3 May is the first Sunday of the month, so Communion will be celebrated. We are all encouraged to prepare our own elements of bread and drink to share in this online service.

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*.

The end of the financial year for church offerings was 31 March. Receipts for church donations which we can use for Inland Revenue tax claims are now being prepared (from the home office) and will be available when we can meet again.