

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

23 August 2020 (*Pentecost 12*)

Parish Minister: **Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio** - Phone 634.5431 *Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ 2018-2021*

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

Parish Office: Phone 636.4587 Email: ocp@xtra.co.nz Website: www.onehungaparish.org

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3

Since last week in Auckland we have been back to Alert Level Three. This means we need to stay at home, within our bubble. We must work from home, unless that is not possible. A social distance of 2 metres and wearing a face covering or mask whenever we leave home is recommended. And if we have cold or flu-like symptoms, we must get tested *immediately*. Church services and meetings are “on hold,” probably until we return to Alert Level One. As previously, maintain strict personal hygiene habits. Give thanks and pray for all those in NZ and overseas who are working so hard trying to keep us safe and virus-free. *Together we can help to stop the spread.* Online information: **Covid-19.govt.nz**

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

Sunday 23 August Bible Readings Psalm 124, Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10

Romans 12: 1-8, Gospel of Matthew 16: 13-20

A reflection from Rev Kaurasi Lagi

*Our short reflection is taken from our Gospel Reading **Matthew 16: 16...***

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” These were the words uttered by Simon Peter.

The word Christ or Christos means “anointed” or “the anointed one”. The Israelites would anoint people with oil setting them apart for a special role such as a Prophet, Priest or King. It indicated that not only had God chosen this person, but that God would give them the ability to fulfil their role.

When Peter said, “You are the Christ,” he was going one step further. Israel had for many years been looking to God to send them a Saviour. Someone like King David who had led them to greatness. They looked to God to send them a Messiah to do it again, to make Israel great again, and to save them from oppressors such as the Romans who ruled Israel during Jesus’ lifetime.

When Peter said, “You are the Christ,” he was saying, “You are the Saviour for whom we have waited for centuries. You are the one sent from God to save us.”

Peter answers first and makes a personal confession of faith accepting Jesus as his personal Saviour. This confession has deep meaning not only for Peter but also for all of us today. Why? Because our life changes direction with this confession.

During this time as we live through another COVID-19 lockdown, our faith will be tested, our daily living challenged, and as we stand deep in this situation, we call out in answer, just as Simon Peter did ***“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”*** ...thank you for saving us Lord, and lead us through this storm of life. AMEN.

CHURCH NEWS

The Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio continues to present weekly online Sunday Devotions at 9am.

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/> The PCANZ website also repeats the Devotions later.

Printed OCP **Annual Reports** and **Parish Service Plans** (September to December 2020) are ready for distribution as soon as we are able to meet together again.

George and Ann Wadsworth have moved from Huia to Epsom. Their new address is 1/9 Golf Road, Epsom, Auckland 1023 Phone 021 800 801 *Welcome back to Epsom!*

OCP is very grateful to those who have made their offerings by Direct Credit online. If you also 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.” *Many thanks!*

The Onehunga Co-operating Parish account is ANZ **06 0209 0093 105 00**.