

# Onehunga Co-operating Parish

# NEWSLETTER

30 August 2020 (*Pentecost 13*)

*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](mailto:ocp@xtra.co.nz) Website: [www.onehungaparish.org](http://www.onehungaparish.org)*

## COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 2

Auckland will move to Covid-19 Alert Level Two at midnight this Sunday. Restrictions on gatherings of people are still in place, including church services. Social distancing of 2 metres is still recommended, and the wearing of face coverings or masks on public transport, some shops etc is now compulsory. We will have to wait for Alert Level One before we can resume church services and activities. And we must continue to wash our hands regularly and record our movements so that contact tracing can be done if necessary. If we have cold or flu-like symptoms, we must get tested immediately. Please keep in touch with our church family and friends by phone, email etc. Our grateful thanks to our Parish Treasurer (Fa'aulu Tomuli-Afoa) who is organising Pak'n Save vouchers for many church members who are finding life tough at present. Give thanks and pray for all those in NZ and overseas who are working so hard trying to keep us virus-free and safe. *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 30 August Bible Readings** Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b, Exodus 3: 1-15  
Romans 12: 9-21, Gospel of Matthew 16: 21-28

### *A reflection from Rev Murray McMeikan*

Greetings in the Lord, sisters and brothers. I trust you are all bearing up in these difficult days, and being patient in our restricted movements. What amazing scripture we have today- words that really speak to our time as God always does, if we listen to him.

The Exodus reading: The Burning Bush. God is Holy, and Moses is on Holy Ground, for God is Holy, not the "big fella upstairs" or "mate". Moses receives his challenge from this God who has no name, but whom the Israelites called "Yahweh". Yahweh says: "I want you to lead my people out of Egypt, out of slavery to freedom."

The Psalm is a thanksgiving for God's wonderful deeds, sung in worship as we sing our hymns.

In Romans, Paul encourages us to live by what we say: "Hold fast to what is good. Love one another. Do not avenge yourselves." Note that our Muslim brothers and sisters (some of them) forgive the one who killed their loved ones in Christchurch. Vengeance belongs to the Lord. Be patient in tribulation. Think of those on the front line dealing with Covid-19 and our government. Pray for them. Never flag in zeal. Be aglow with the Spirit. Serve the Lord.

In Matthew, Jesus says: If we want to follow him, we must be cross-bearers, take up our cross and follow him. It is not always easy. Many today are persecuted and killed for following Jesus, for challenging what is unjust. There is much to think about and pray about in these readings. Take one passage each day and think and pray about it. God has a way of speaking to us in our daily lives.

Stay safe, and may God's peace, shalom, be with us all.

## CHURCH NEWS

We are very sad to report that **Mrs Ane Toamaka** passed away last Sunday. Our loving prayers and sympathy are extended to her family, friends, and the OCP Niuean Group. Ane was loved and highly respected in our church family, and a loyal support to her late husband Vili Toamaka, who was Niuean Group Secretary 1996-2006. The funeral service was held at Tipene Funerals on Friday with just nine family members and the Minister able to attend because of Covid-19 restrictions.

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.

