

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

13 September 2020 (*Pentecost 15*)

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

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With community spread and border arrivals still testing positive for Covid-19, NZ remains at Alert Level Two. Restrictions on gatherings of people are in place, including church services. Social distancing is still essential, and the wearing of face coverings or masks on public transport, some cafes and shops etc is now compulsory. We will have to wait for Alert Level One before we can resume church services, meetings and activities.

Please keep in touch with our church family and friends by phone, email etc. 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 13 September Bible Readings Psalm 114, Exodus 14: 19-31

Romans 14: 1-12, Gospel of Matthew 18: 21-35

***A reflection from Rev Kaurasi Lagi* FORGIVENESS**

Today's Gospel Lesson Matthew 18: 21-35 clearly teaches the principle of forgiveness. "...out of pity for him, the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt." Jesus taught his disciples to pray for forgiveness as we have been forgiven in Matthew 6: 12 "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." How many times do we forgive? Seventy-times seven, or an alternative reading which says seventy-seven times. Sometimes it is easy to forgive once or twice, but when situations require us to forgive over and over again, we can find it quite challenging.

But we should ask ourselves this question: was the blood of Jesus on the cross not enough? We sometimes would rather hold a grudge than take the steps that lead to forgiveness and reconciliation. Real forgiveness goes beyond just words but to the reality behind it. We all need that second chance or third or fifth or seventy-seventh. Dr Leonard Felder explains in an article, *A Fresh Start*, "...if you have someone from your past with whom you have never been able to resolve differences, or express your feelings, now is a good time to start. There is nothing more cleansing than working through your feelings toward someone whose impact on your life is still felt. You do not need to carry on your conflicts forever. Healing the hurt inside can free a person."

We are freed as we forgive and are forgiven. As we remain in our bubble, let us take this time to reflect on this message of forgiveness: an act that will free us from these shackles and allow us to live a life that is pleasing to our Almighty Father. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS

Warmest congratulations to **Leogaupu Tomuli** who celebrated a significant birthday recently.

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.

Our **Parish Annual Meeting** had been scheduled for last Sunday (6 September), but because of current restrictions was not able to be held. We will announce a new date after we have again reached Covid-19 Alert Level One. 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. The **Church Council** meeting originally scheduled for this Thursday 17 September is also postponed.