

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

20 September 2020 (*Pentecost 16*)

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Parish Minister: Rev Kaurasi Lagi - Phone 834.5222

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Daylight Saving begins again from *next* Sunday 27 September. Put your clocks and watches FORWARD 1 hour before bedtime next Saturday night. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we still 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 105: 1-6, 37-45, Exodus 16: 2-15

Philippians 1: 21-30, Gospel of Matthew 20: 1-16

A reflection from Rev Murray McMeikan

The Warriors. I admire them. Losing their coach, away from their families, injuries and all sorts of hurdles, yet they gave it their best shot. All hail to them, and though they missed out on the finals, we can only salute them for their pride and determination.

Is it not like that for us in the Christian life, sisters and brothers? The Israelites crossed the Red Sea to freedom. They spent years in the wilderness, and they moaned and groaned. "Better for us back in Egypt" they said, "than starving here in the desert." But God gave them manna, food to eat.

And Paul, tired after his missionary journeys, writing to the Church in Philippi while he is in prison, says it would be better to die and be with Christ, but for the sake of the Gospel he wants to live - his work is not finished. He looks to Rome where he will die later on, killed by the Roman authorities.

How easy it is for us to give in to hardship, to say "This is too tough for me." Millions of people are battling this virus, including us, but especially those on the front line. We can't give in. I was taking a service in a church and had chosen the hymn "Onward Christian soldiers." The people said "The previous minister thought it was too militant, too warlike." But we said, "Let's sing it anyway," which they did, with great gusto. Life goes on, and sometimes it is a battle.

We need the Warrior spirit. Kia kaha. Grace and Peace.

CHURCH NEWS

Congratulations to **Robert** and **Korina Harris** on the arrival of their baby girl **Ngara**, born last weekend. And congratulations to **Loise LeMamea** who has just celebrated a significant birthday.

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 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.