

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

27 September 2020 (*Pentecost 17*)

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Remember to put all clocks and watches FORWARD 1 hour before bedtime tonight (Saturday).

Daylight Saving starts this Sunday 27 September and ends on Sunday 4 April 2021.

Auckland is still in Covid-19 Alert Level Two. The NZ Government will review the restrictions again on Wednesday 7 October. Church services, meetings and activities will resume when we move to Alert Level One. We continue to wear face masks, wash our hands regularly, get tested immediately if we have cold or flu-like symptoms, and keep a record of our movements for tracking and tracing.

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 27 September Bible Readings Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16, Exodus 17: 1-7

Philippians 2: 1-13, Gospel of Matthew 21: 23-32

A reflection from Rev Peter Wedde

The reading from Exodus is part of the story of how God led the people of Israel out of Egypt to the promised land. They had many troubles on the way, but God guided them and looked after them, even in the dry desert. What do you need most of all in a desert? God gave them “water from the rock” and it was a sign of God’s love and care. In Psalm 78 they remembered, and gave thanks for God saving them from Egypt and caring for them in the desert – “he split rocks open in the desert, and gave them water from the depths.”

In Philippians chapter 2 Paul reminds the people of what Jesus did in his life and death and rising again, using what was probably one of the earliest Christian hymns. Is there anyone in the Co-operating Parish who could set this out as a hymn for us to sing these days – in English, or Samoan, or Cook Island, or Niuean, or Tongan?

In the Gospel reading from Matthew, the leaders of the people try to trick Jesus in a question about his right to teach in the temple. But he turned the question back on the leaders by asking them about John the Baptist. Jesus always said good things about John the Baptist, but showed up how the leaders failed to do God’s will, as in the story of the two sons in verses 28 to 32 which close today’s Gospel reading. Lots to read, lots to think about, lots to try and do, as followers of Jesus.

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.

Our **Parish Annual Meeting** had been scheduled for Sunday 6 September, but because of coronavirus restrictions was not able to be held. The Church Council 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.