

# Onehunga Co-operating Parish

# NEWSLETTER

6 September 2020 (*Pentecost 14*)

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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## COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 2.5 (*Auckland*)

NZ is still at Covid-19 Alert Level Two. 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 cafes and shops etc is now compulsory. We will have to wait for Alert Level One before we can resume church services and activities.

*We still need to follow the guidelines:*

+ Stay home if you are sick + Call the Healthline 0800 358 5453 (or your GP) if you have cold or flu-like symptoms + Wear a face-covering + Keep track of where you've been + Wash your hands + Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow + Clean surfaces that get touched frequently + Maintain physical distancing + Wash your hands again + And be kind - always be kind...  
*Our foe in this battle is invisible, and people are the solution – not the problem...*

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 6 September Bible Readings** Psalm 149, Exodus 12: 1-14

Romans 13: 8-14, Gospel of Matthew 18: 15-20

## *A reflection from Rev Peter Wedde*

Each reading for this Sunday has something special to remember and take into our lives.

Over these weeks we are reading parts of Exodus. Why not read the whole story during this time when we cannot come to church? Today's chapter might look like no more than instructions for the worship of the people of Israel. But Passover, and the escape from slavery in Egypt was the one great event that made the people of Israel sure they were called by God to be his people. We remember that at the Last Supper and his death on the cross at the time of Passover, Jesus gave new meaning to God's call to make a new people of God.

Psalm 149 is the second-to-last of the psalms – the last five psalms all begin and end with "Praise the Lord" which is English for "Hallelujah". Let us all begin and end every day with "Praise the Lord – Hallelujah."

Paul, in Romans 13, is making clear what Jesus said to his disciples in the reading from Matthew 18 – Christians love and care for one another. And their love and care reaches out to all people; something the world needs now, more than ever.

Remember Jesus' teaching and example, to love one another. Be patient, keep safe, show kindness, and may the goodness and love of God be with us all.

## 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.