

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

11 October 2020 (*Pentecost 19*)

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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New Zealand is now back at Covid-19 Alert Level One. We should continue to wear face masks in public transport, shops etc, wash our hands regularly, stay at home if we feel unwell, get tested immediately if we have cold or flu-like symptoms, and keep a record of our movements for tracking and tracing.

Church Council is meeting this coming Thursday to confirm the restarting of our worship services, meetings and activities. Another email will be sent immediately following that meeting. The proposal is for us to resume 10am worship services at Grey Street and St Stephen's Churches from Sunday 18 October. Please check with Group Secretaries for when afternoon services are to start again.

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.

For those who can, please forward this Newsletter to your church groups and/or friends. **Thank you!**

Sunday 11 October Bible Readings Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 *Praise God*

Exodus 32: 1-14 *The Golden Calf*

Philippians 4: 1-9 *Exhortations*

Matthew 22: 1-14 *The Parable of the Wedding Banquet*

A reflection from Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio

Theme: Clothed in Spiritual Change

Being Christians means changing in every aspect: mind, body and spirit. We become new beings. We are transformed when Jesus is our Lord and Saviour. This is a common New Testament metaphor where 'clothing' symbolises the spiritual change. In Romans 13: 14 "...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ". Colossians 3: 12 "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." In Christ we are born again: new in every area of life.

The Golden Calf story in Exodus reminds us to be faithful and loyal to God's servants who are called to lead us. The Israelites showed their 'fickle' nature. Easily misled, with a mob mentality, shallow faith, and faltering under duress.

The Psalm reminds us to praise and thank God in all of life, in the trials and tribulations of our journey. We are told to keep our eyes on the Lord God, in the highs and lows of life. The message to the Philippians, and for us today... "rejoice in the Lord always." Keep everything in prayer, with thanksgiving. God's peace will be upon us. It will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Be a new spiritual being for Jesus, clothed in love, compassion and humility, led and helped by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS Warmest congratulations to Risati and Nadia Kaio on the arrival of their second child **Jonas Aiden Kaio**, born 5 October 2020.

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** will now be held on Sunday 1 November, 11.30am in the Grey Street Lounge (following our 10am services). Originally scheduled for 6 September, the meeting had to be postponed because of Covid-19 restrictions. Printed Annual Reports will be available from church during October. Please collect your copy, read the reports, and bring them back with you to the Annual Meeting.

This could well be our last *emailed* Newsletter, assuming we remain at Covid-19 Alert Level One... OCP Newsletters will again be printed for distribution at worship services, and mailed to those who are unable to be at church. Please advise the Administrator if you know of anyone who should be added to the list. Currently we post Newsletters to about twenty members and households each week.