

Onehunga Co-operating Parish

NEWSLETTER

4 October 2020 (*Pentecost 18*)

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

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Auckland is still in Covid-19 Alert Level Two. The NZ Government will review the restrictions again this week on Wednesday 7 October. Church services, meetings and activities will resume when we move to Alert Level One, and after the Church Council has met to confirm our restart. We must 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 4 October Bible Readings Psalm 19, Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Philippians 3: 4b-14, Gospel of Matthew 21: 33-46

A reflection from Rev Kaurasi Lagi

Patience – this is the lesson given to us today in our Gospel reading.

In the parable of the Landowner we saw the incredible amount of patience he showed in the most trying situations he found himself in.

The landowner had invested a lot in his vineyard. In verse 33 we read how he **planted, set, dug, built, let and went**. These are strong verbs that point to the active, caring, and loving nature of the landowner towards his vineyard. Then he went away entrusting the responsibility to the tenants to till, cultivate, and harvest with the expectation that his vineyard will bear fruit and flourish.

When it was time to claim his harvest, he sent out messengers to the tenants to see how they were getting on. The first group he sent were beaten, stoned, and killed. The second group he sent out also met the same fate. He finally decides to send his son thinking it inconceivable that they would reject him. "They will respect my son," he says.

We see here how the landowner, despite the circumstances, continues to be patient.

Upon the arrival of his son, again the wicked tenants set upon him and kill him.

How comforting it is that our God is the landowner. His characteristics are that of love and such love is patient. His love for us shown by sending his only Son to die on the cross for our sins. His promise that he will never leave us nor forsake us, and He will remain with us forever.

Let His love and promise embed itself in our very being, and remain with us forever.

"The stone the Builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

I trust you are all well and safe, and blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

CHURCH NEWS

Our grateful thanks to those who have been delivering grocery vouchers to almost 200 church members and families. We hope that these gifts from our parish may help those who have been affected by Covid-19 restrictions or reduced employment. Please phone one of our Ministers for if further help is needed, including pastoral care. Visit ***connected.govt.nz*** to find out about employment, support etc.

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. 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.