



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

17TH MAY 2020



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Dear colleagues and friends,
Kia ora.

The impact of COVID-19 sees us in unprecedented times, making hard decisions for the well-being of our churches and communities. Over the past seven weeks, we have all made sacrifices and limited our lives for the greater benefit of our wider community. Thank you for what you have done to keep yourself and those in your bubble safe.

The Government has announced that while NZ will take a graduated approach to entering Level 2, gatherings at this level during this time remain limited to 10 people (this will be reviewed by the Government in 14 days).

In the light of this, I want to refer you to my communication of [23 March 2020](#), and to restate that all physical gathering for public services of worship in the Presbyterian Church remain suspended.

We will evaluate this as the Government reviews its guidelines in the weeks to come.

Later in the week, we will provide some further advice to assist you as you prepare for the lifting of restrictions so that gatherings of larger sizes can take place safely.

In these times, can I encourage you to be people of prayer and of pastoral care.

Our Moderator – Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio – will continue to produce a [weekly video](#) including prayer, reading the Scriptures, and reflections to encourage us all.

We have information and advice for our churches on Covid-19 on our [Church website](#) that we are regularly updating, and on this [Facebook](#) group page, where people can find ideas for resourcing ministry.

Please continue to follow the best advice provided by the [Ministry of Health](#), and on the special [COVID19](#) information website.

‘Ko te Atua to tatou te piringa, te kaha, te awhina i nga wa katoa. Na reira, kaore tatou e mataku ...’/God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...” Psalm 46: 1

Yours sincerely,
Wayne Matheson
Assembly Executive Secretary
wayne@presbyterian.org.nz

Looking Ahead

We have moved into level 2. People are gearing themselves up to re-enter into society that has changed in many ways. Many will find it hard to start where they left off. Many will be lost and may not know where to start. But we have to start again and start we must. We must face the challenges. We must put one foot in front of the other and move. We must be proactive. We must take the opportunity to create a new, to think anew. We must have courage to look ahead. We must work together and keep active with one another and re-engage with community.

This lock down has certainly given us all a new perspective on life as we know it to life of what will be. I would like to think that God has given us the power and choice to shape what our future could be as a church. This is not to say, out with the old and in with the new, it is to say we have been given other tools to use to continue to be who are in this changed stage of our journey together.

The church leadership will meet next week to discuss what looking ahead will look like. We welcome your thoughts around these areas below.

You would have received online worship and wocasts from various resources and lent study was done by zoom. Your feedback about these resources are important in helping us shape our way forward.

Please send your feedback to Arii whether they were helpful or, you might want to share your thoughts and ideas of other ways of staying connected or forms of worship and / or outreaching.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Shalom

Rev Arii Taimataora

Next Chapter in the Mary, Martha reflection, (10th May)
"An opportunity to be Mary as well as Martha", while baking.

Grandma's Recipe for Happiness.

2 heaped cups of Patience	1 heartful of Love
2 handfuls of Generosity	1 headful of Understanding
a dashful of laughter	a generous sprinkle of Kindness

Plenty of Faith

Combine Patience, Laughter and Generosity with Understanding. add Laughter, sprinkle generously with Kindness. Add plenty of Faith. Spread over a period of a lifetime and serve everyone you know.

Are you worried about all those surplus Feijoas that dropping to the ground.

For inward peace read John 14: Verse 1 "Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe in God and believe also in me.

A Recipe from the May NZ Gardener magazine.

Feijoa Loaf. One pot Wonder. Place 1 cup of peeled, chopped Feijoa, 1 cup boiling water, 1 cup sugar and 50g butter in a saucepan. Simmer for 5 minutes, let cool slightly, then beat in 1 large egg, 2 cups self-rising flour and 1 tsp baking soda. Pour into loaf tin and bake 180°C for 40 - 50 minutes, or muffin trays for 12 - 15 minutes. Double the recipe, 1 for the freezer.

Be Thankful. Psalm 92 A Song of Praise

How good it is to give thanks to you, O Lord. to sing to your honour, O Most High God. to proclaim your constant, love every morning and your faithfulness every night.

A Slice that brings Joy. Apricot Fudge Slice. All you need is: ½ cup of soft sugar, 1 cup chopped dried apricots, 1 packet of crushed wine biscuits, ½ tin condensed milk and 125g of butter. To make just heat butter, sugar & condensed milk. Do not boil. Then add chopped apricots, biscuits and some crystallized ginger, (optional). Lastly, press into tray & sprinkle with coconut. So, while baking we can also have "Time with God"



Generosity to the Fore

Thank you to our plant Grower Jan, for donating some Silver Wattle and Bluegum Plants.

Sold on the Rakaia FB very quickly, yielded \$145 for Plains.

Also, some surplus garage goods have been sold on "Trade Me" for \$300.

Maybe this the way to go this year in Fund Raising, re Plants 4 U & Rakaia.

The Covid restrictions may hamper this project planned for October.

St Andrews Helping Hand. Dorothy has had discussions with people regarding the donating of groceries for food parcels, if needed, in the Rakaia Community. So far all is well, support is given by the Ashburton Foodbank. But with winter looming, there may be a greater need. So, once we start services again, grocery items will be welcomed and can build a supply for emergencies. Thank you.

WANTED by Dorothy, for a **Village Green project in Rakaia.** Have you got some overcrowded daffodils in your garden? Would they like to be shifted to a new home? Welcome all contributions for Daffodil Dell. If you can help please phone Dorothy 3027595. Thank you!

Keeping Connected

Sunday 9.00 am with the Moderator Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio.

A time of Devotion reflecting the Lectionary reading for the day

<https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>

Sunday 10:00 am with Dr Rev Tokerau Joseph, Mairangi, Castor Bay Parish

A 30-minute responsive service with singing. <https://youtu.be/BKXvwTAWDro>

Video service, podcast, and Zoom with Rev Arii and Tai

Timaru Presbyterian Parish with Brent and Rory can be sourced through Dorothy.

Check Out: Shine channel on TV, Sky 74

& Channel 1 on Saturday morning "Healthy for Life" with Bernice Mene. Good half hour for seniors.



The Bible urges us to bear one another's burdens. And so, we are inviting those of you who are able to support our cyclone recovery appeal for our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu.

This can be done by donating online to the PCANZ Global Mission account number: 02 0500 0086963 010 with the reference Cyclone Appeal. Cheques can be mailed to the PCANZ Assembly Office, PO Box 9049, Wellington 6141.

(you will find moderator's full appeal in the pcanz website)

Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Loving God, We remember Vanuatu who was hit by cyclone Harold in April.

Destruction and damage in many places that has affected peoples lively hood.

God may your grace and comfort continue to be with this pacific nation.

May you sustain them by your wisdom, compassion and hope.

May they find peace in the aid they receive that embodies the gospel of Christ.

Amen.

