



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



Good Friday Funeral Service, April 2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

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Jo Wyman-Macer

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Wednesday via phone and email

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Mairangi Bay

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Stewart Milne

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Treasurer, property and finance

George Wyman

Ph 478 6411

Support worker for the elderly

Margaret Pont

027 225 8893

This month's newsletter has a range of photos of some of the community outreach undertaken by the church.

Many thanks to Yoshiko Tregathan and Karel Lorier for sharing.

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNINGS** - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month
10am - 12pm, Boardgames, Rummikubs, Cards etc
For further information Margaret Pont 4893176 or 027 2258893
- **GIRLS' BRIGADE** - Tuesdays during School term. Church Hall 6.30-8pm.
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603
- **LADIES HOME GROUP** - Wednesdays 10.15am.
Contact Heather on 479-8822 for further details.
- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**
Wednesdays Church Hall. 1.00-2.00pm
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**
1pm—2.30pm Wednesdays New Meeting Room 2.
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786
- **HOUSE GROUP**
Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Shadbolts
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- **LUNCHEON GROUP**
2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm in Church hall
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.
- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**
Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall
For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**
Meeting 3rd Friday 6.30pm shared meal.
Venue circulates. For further information contact
Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.
- **MAINLY MUSIC**
Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am
Ph Tangi Joseph 0226573223



AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Since our last newsletter, the tragic events in Christchurch occurred. Nearly a month later, it still seems unbelievable that one person ended the lives of fifty people, injured many more, and scarred a city and nation. We've heard of hateful motivation terrorising a time of peaceful prayer. Such horror and devastation leave us with pressing questions. How do we make sense of such an act? As Christians, how do we reconcile the love of God with the suffering and death of innocent people?

Somehow, tragedy creates a space in us to seek understanding about our environment or circumstances. We often grapple long and hard with the "whys." "Why did the gunman do this?" "Why didn't police do more?" "Why did God allow it to happen?" The list could go on and we may never resolve a satisfactory answer. Perhaps this is part of the grief process in expressing anger for what has happened. It might be a way of letting go of hurt. But it may also be seen as compounding our emotional or psychological pain. Whatever questions we ask, the reality is that pain and suffering are part of life, just as joy and happiness.

Life events, particularly suffering, challenge us to think again about our faith. In my Lenten sermons, I mention the space that tragedy can open up within us to ask these tough questions. But it is also a space in which we can encounter God while wrestling with our views of suffering and injustice. Without forgetting or denying what has happened, encountering the mystery we call God can also involve considering new possibilities to move us from past painful experiences toward God's mercy and love.

As I write this, Holy Week is upon us. It's a most sombre time for the Christian community in which we remember and journey with Jesus to his betrayal, denial, injustice, suffering, and death. Again, we may ask, how do we make sense of such events? How do we reconcile the love of God with the suffering and death of an innocent man who preached forgiveness and peace? The suffering and death of Jesus opens within us the space to encounter God.



In this space of pressing questions of injustice and hatred, we may not always perceive the answers we want so clearly, but we can know the presence of God who is with us in our struggles. This is what Job came to realise when confronting and being confronted by God. In humility, the question for Job not so much why does he and godly people suffer; rather, how might he find peace with himself and with God in the midst of his suffering?

God shared our humanity in Jesus. Like Job, the suffering and death of Jesus becomes the means through which we find peace with ourselves and with God. In Tim Keller's book, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*, he says that "only in Jesus Christ do we see how the untamable, infinite God can become a baby and a loving Savior. On the cross we see how both the love and the holiness of God can be fulfilled at once" (p.282). Good Friday and Easter Sunday remind us that, even in suffering and joys of life, God's loving presence is a reality for us. Again, Keller affirms, "The only love that won't disappoint you is one that can't change, that can't be lost, that is not based on the ups and downs of life or of how well you live. It is something that not even death can take away from you. God's love is the only thing like that" (p.304).

We continue to process the recent horrific acts of Christchurch. Yet, in the space that tragedy has opened up within us, may we encounter the God of mercy and life. As we look to God's love and compassion in Christ, may that enable us to move forward in hope trusting that we can "cast all our anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL, Tuscany and Venice

Tuesday, May 14 at 1:30

Come and spend some time with John Shadbolt as he talks and shows pictures of the trip that he and Dorille took to Tuscany and Venice. Enjoy the beautiful scenery shown through the photos and hear some of the interesting experiences that they had during their time in Italy. All are welcome so bring a friend. Contact Norma Baker 443 3108



KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Darkest Hours

Mark writes that when Jesus was on the cross, “at noon, darkness came over the land until three in the afternoon.” No contemporary historian other than gospel writers note this darkness.

Mark used these “dark hours” in a symbolic way to describe the impact of Jesus’ crucifixion. Darkness describes the grief of followers of Jesus who had high hopes for the kingdom of God. Darkness for those hours was a spiritual truth.

From these “hours of darkness” resurrection faith burst forth.

On March 15 we experienced New Zealand’s “Darkest Hour” as the Prime Minister Jacinda Adern described the Mosque shootings. It killed at least 50 people and injured many more both physically and psychologically. By all accounts, local and international, we dealt with this darkest hour in an exemplary manner. Amongst the grief there is an outpouring of love, compassion and the formation of new relationships.

A Maori soon pointed out they too had a “darkest hour” which had long term consequences.

I stumbled on the scene of the Maori “Darkest Hour” unwittingly, ill-informed and unprepared while photographing the Pompallier Hikoi. I found myself in February 2002, one of only two Pakeha, among a group of angry, grieving Maori at Rangiaowhia. I put my camera away but was asked



to keep photographing. They told me that at this place women, children and elderly men had been burnt alive in a whare set alight by British and colonial military. Emotions overflowed as we stood in the cemetery surrounded by descendants of those who had been murdered. In the stories the numbers killed varied wildly.

In the 1863-64's New Zealand's Governor, Grey, heard rumours that Kingitanga Maori were about to attack Auckland. The Kingitanga were a collection of iwi gathered together because the Treaty of Waitangi was not being honoured. Maori had no intention of attacking Auckland. Their economy depended on it.

Grey sent General Cameron with a force of 7,000 military to the Waikato. After a battle at Rangiriri, Maori were criticised for having their women and children with them at the front line. A place of safety for women, children and elderly men was negotiated. General Cameron and Bishop Selwyn, chaplain to the forces, and Wiremu Tamihana were parties to this agreement. The place of refuge was Rangiaowhia, a prosperous village, the hub of the Waikato Maori economy, with two mission stations, an exemplary school, surrounded by wheat fields and orchards as far as the eye could see. It supplied produce to Auckland, and the flour mill provided flour to the Gold Miners in Australia and California.

On Sunday morning February 21, 1864 this undefended, agreed, place of refuge was attacked by British and colonial forces who had sneaked past formidable defences overnight. The surprise attack was chaotic, a British officer was shot, a whare (possibly a place of prayer) was set on fire. An elderly man carrying a white blanket, indicating truce, was shot as he emerged from the burning whare. Others were too afraid to leave and were incinerated. Those who took refuge in the Catholic church were shot at. The boards of the church offered no protection. The village was burnt down, only the Anglican church remained. The military claimed twelve Maori died, 33 prisoners were taken, 21 were women and children. Other estimates of those killed range downward from 144. In fact, it is not a numbers game even one death would have been a disastrous, betrayal of trust.

This was seen as an act of treachery towards Maori by the Government and church, as Bishop Selwyn, chaplain to the forces, was unfortunately present. Missionaries were no longer trusted by Maori and feared for their lives. When the men heard what had happened at Rangiaowhia they left

their defended pa. The result was that Kingitanga Maori were defeated, their lands confiscated, economy smashed and they wandered in the King country, impoverished and sometimes starving. They isolated themselves in the King country by an aukati (a Kiwi iron curtain) behind which few Pakeha dared venture.

This “dark hour” has been devastating. The rate of Maori literacy had been higher than that of the settler population. Mission organised schools vanished. However, most damaging was the breakdown of trust in the government, Pakeha, the Christian missions and the loss of mana.

General Cameron and other British soldiers became disillusioned as they began to see what it really was, a land grab by settlers for fertile Maori land.

Maori are in the process of reclaiming their place to stand, their pride and mana aided by the treaty settlements with government attempting to right the wrongs of the past. Ignorance of N.Z history has permitted some Pakeha to pronounce that Maori are disproportionally favoured.

Not much insight and imagination are required to conclude that smashing the Maori economy and dislocating them from their land has some bearing on the present high rate of Maori poverty and incarceration.

Pakeha have been ill served by being offered a bland expurgated history of Maori Pakeha relations masquerading as the best race relations in the world.

We need to know about the “dark hours,” not to wallow in them and stay stuck, but as a way of moving forward to the light of resurrected relationship returning to the ideals spelled out in the Treaty of Waitangi.

Karel Lorier

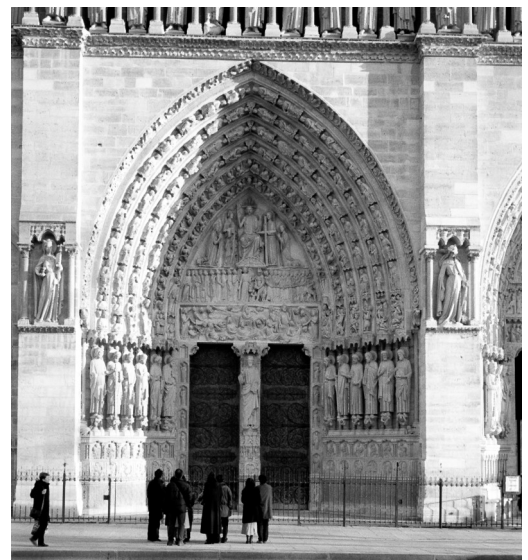
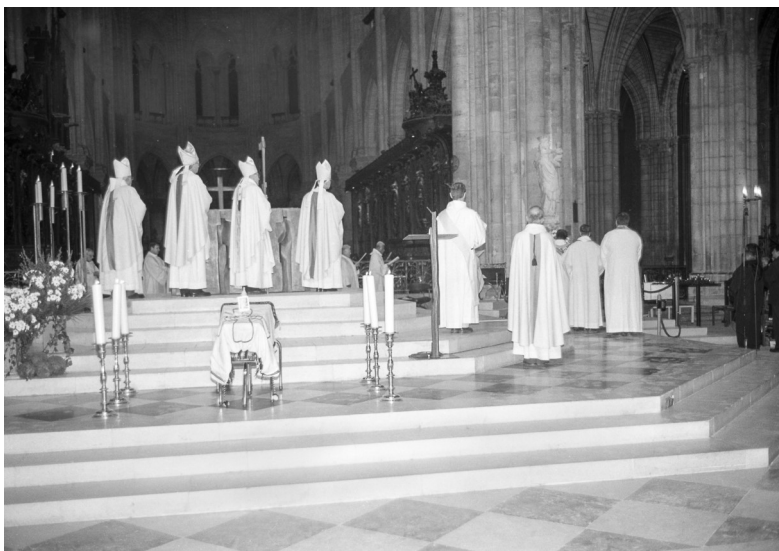
YOUNG MUM'S GROUP - 9 May, 7:30pm

A time for mums of young people of all ages to get together and share fellowship. Hosted by Heather Gibson on the second Thursday of the month (next gathering 9 May, 7:30pm)

Phone Heather, 027 499 9808; email: gibsonfamily@xtra.co.nz

Special Communion Service

On April 2nd, 23 members and helpers from the Pastoral Care Committee gathered for a Special Communion service especially organised for those who are not able to attend our regular Sunday services. It was a time of reflection, prayer, sharing of ideas and fellowship that was very meaningful to all. The luncheon that followed was well received and the conversation very lively. Our next Special Communion Service will be on Tuesday, July 9.



In Notre Dame Cathedral, the only time in the Cathedrals almost 900year history the Latin Hymn Slave Regina is replaced by a Maori Hymn composed by Pompallier. The Cardinals, Bishops and Priests are facing the statue of Our Lady from which the Cathedral takes its name.

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the April meeting of Parish Council we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters
- Were reminded of the desirability of taking photos of parish activities to share with the congregation on the screen prior to the Sunday Service and to look ahead to forthcoming events which can be publicised.
- Were advised of Tokerau's involvement in the opening ceremony of the graduation celebrations at Massey University , the Hibiscus Coast MSB and the coming ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Browns Bay.
- Learnt of the lodgement of the Application for a Building Permit for the strengthening of the hall to meet Earthquake Standards.
- Were advised of the issuing of receipts for offerings for the Tax Year ending 31 March
- Confirmed the recommencement of the Hindi language services which are being held at 6pm on the first and last Sundays of each month. The service is followed by an Indian meal.
- Approved of the holding of an Indian Cultural Event which will be open to the public and which will be held at 5pm on Saturday 29 of June. This also will be followed by a meal.
- Gratefully acknowledged the receipt of a grant from the North Shore Presbyterian Hospital Trust to assist with the financing of Dees Group
- Received complimentary reports on the Special Communion Service and lunch which was held for our senior members who are not always able to get along to our Sunday morning services
- Spent time on succession planning and in particular the attributes that are required in the various positions of responsibility in the parish. In this regard we are very much wanting to encourage members who have an interest in a particular church activity, and who are prepared to learn more, with the longer term possibility of taking responsibility. There will be further work done on this at our next meeting.
- Agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Christian World Service Appeal for the needs in SE Africa following the Cyclone Idai
- Suggested that the Church and Community Committee consider organising a series of sessions covering an understanding of the key beliefs of other faiths including Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Stewart Milne

FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS

To be held on the **first Friday of every month, 6:30-8pm**

These evenings are informal events, as a chance for fellowship and outreach into the community. All ages welcome

Dates:

May 3 June 7
July 5



LUNCHEON GROUP **MAY 9th 12pm – 2pm**

April's meeting was well attended by 40 people which included the Dees Group and the Orongo Rest Home. Be sure to come and join in with the

SCOTTISH DANCERS AT OUR NEXT MEETING

Donations at the door.

Raffles and trade table operating.



MIDDLE-AGED SPREAD

Fellowship group would like to make a block booking at the Pumphouse to see Roger Hall's Middle Age Spread on the 11th or 12th of May. Please contact Karen 09 478 3428.

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth and children	10am Church	Mairangi Bay	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm Church Hall	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Ladies Home Group	10.15 am	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays	Heather Gibson 479 8822
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson 410 4423
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am -2.00pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Margaret Pont 021 670 019
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Tangi Joseph 0226573223
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108
Activities Mornings, Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	1st & 3 rd Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019