



# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

[www.alpinepresbytery.org](http://www.alpinepresbytery.org)

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## Newsletter 26 March 2020

### Remember!

In the midst of this strange new phenomenon called "lock-down" we may find ourselves taking time to adjust to a new way of living with those we are with. For those who have suddenly relocated 'work' to 'home' it might pay to give yourself time to readjust routines (especially for those with children at home). Just transferring work to home doesn't mean that everything will flow smoothly. New ways of living and new rhythms for your day might need to be discovered. So.... be kind to yourself; find ways of readjusting your life; take time to make a plan for how to work out each day; don't expect things to just switch over easily! Take time to talk and think and plan your way into a new way of being. This phase may yet last longer than we expect. Go easy on yourself and look after yourself and each other as you adjust in the time ahead. Take care and keep safe!

### Message from the Moderator

Greetings. During this stressful time when we are unable to gather in our churches for worship, comfort and support, I will be live streaming devotions for our Church family every Sunday at 9am. Please join me.

My Sunday devotion is not just for our Church family, it is for anyone who needs the comforting word that God is with us.

No matter what we face in the coming weeks as a family, community and nation, Jesus will be with us, never forsake us. Together we will feel and share the love of Jesus Christ, the great healer.

We are in a time of crisis, people are fearful of what lies ahead, and they will be searching for spiritual guidance, strength and courage. This devotion is one way that our Church can be there for each other and them. Let's share our hope and pray together for each other.

My video devotion will be on my Moderator Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>. There is also a link on the Church website and Facebook.

I know some of you will be meeting online Sunday mornings with your own churches and I commend you for using technology to gather and pray together.

If you cannot join me at 9am, the videos will be on my Facebook page to watch at any time. I know that smart screens and apps are not so easy to use for some of our older people and I encourage our younger ones to help.

Please share links to my devotions widely. Let us show we are together apart, and fully present.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." John 14:27*

Right Reverend Fakaofa Kaio, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand

### Coming Up

*Events planned ahead for Presbytery are now subject to the COVID-19 Alert Level guidelines.*

*The planned Induction for Rev Martin Harrison on the 18<sup>th</sup> April in Kaikoura is now postponed.*

*We will monitor the situation in the time ahead and advise when events are rescheduled*

### Presbytery Directory

[Click here](#) to download the latest directory, dated January 2020

Any amendments or corrections should be advised to Gail in the Presbytery Office.

### Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

[Click here](#) to download the Strategic Framework



## Where to go for ministry support and resources

There is a lot of material being shared for “what to do” in ministry that can be a challenge to sift through. Here is a summary of some key aspects:

### **Communication on line:**

Many groups are using Zoom for their Council meetings, prayer meetings, regular connecting etc. You will find a brief video here: <https://zoom.us/about>.

And here is a handy guide in pdf form to accessing and using Zoom: [How to Access Zoom](#)

There are different plans (<https://zoom.us/pricing>) starting with a free account which allows you to have meetings for up to 40 minutes, and 100 people. The Pro account will cost around \$20 a month, and allows for longer meetings, and use other features like ‘breakout’ rooms. If you choose this method, we suggest you take some time and watch an online tutorial on how to set it up and use it, like this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMUxzrgZvZQ>

There are other options like messenger and Skype, so if you are more familiar with those they are good for smaller groups and one to one.

### **Resources:**

A central place for resources is being coordinated here (scroll to the bottom of this page) <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information>. These resources have been uploaded by the Mission Resource team in Wellington. If you have something you believe would be appreciated by others share it with us and we will pass it on.

A PCANZ face book page has been set up which you will find here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2302897206669617/>

### **Devotions:**

Our National Moderator is sharing a weekly devotion which you will find here <https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>. If you are struggling with time to prepare and send out devotional material, you could consider using this, and then simply focus on helping people connect and ‘be’ together.

*Please note, the advice we have received is we should not be delivering material to letterboxes at this time.*

If you are preparing material that could be shared with other congregations, you could consider sharing it on the national Facebook page, or send it to us and we can share on the Alpine Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1059200950757083/>

Finally, we have heard the message to be kind, which is a great message. Plus - we encourage you to pause and be kind to yourself. We don’t have to immediately replicate what we do on Sunday online, and let's take time to readjust to this ‘new normal.’ We can simply pause and ask ‘what is the most important thing for our people at the moment?’ And then look for ways to do that by phone or technology.

Contact Darryl [darryl@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:darryl@alpinepresbytery.org) or 027 5560055 who along with the Presbytery Resource team will help you find the resources you need.

## Ministering during the Lockdown

There are many queries on what is and isn’t permitted during the lockdown. Here are some guidelines; we’re sure there will be more coming in and we will share them as they come in.

- **Funerals:** no public funerals from midnight on Wednesday 25th March and throughout the lockdown. All burials and cremations will continue – just no one present. See FDANZ website: <https://www.fdanz.co.nz/planning-a-funeral/covid-19-information/>
- **Weddings** are obviously not able to be held.
- **Ministers are not classed as "essential services"** so no in-person pastoral visiting of any kind can be performed. It will need to be done by other means e.g. phone, email, skype, zoom, etc
- Churches cannot be left open for people to go to for solace, reflection, prayer, etc
- Churches cannot conduct any form of community ministry gatherings.

The PCANZ website has information and resources—scroll down to the end for resources to provide guidance and ideas about how to connect when physical gatherings are no longer possible: <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information>

## Local Ordained Ministry (LOM) applications & assessments for 2020

### Information from the National Assessment Workgroup:

As we face the rapidly changing situation with Coronavirus, we are making some adjustments to our timetabling for Local Ordained Ministry Applications and Assessments for this year. The usual deadline for applications for LOM is 31 March. For this year only we are extending this deadline to 31 May. This will give sufficient time for local churches to work through any details that may need to be put in place prior to the application proceeding to Presbytery. Hopefully this gives everyone enough of a window to complete the detail.

It is still envisaged at this point that Presbytery Assessments for Local Ordained Ministry will occur in the months of August/September this year.

We will keep in touch as further information comes to hand.

## Moderator-Designate nominations

Parish Councils are reminded that nominations for the National Moderator-Designate need to be sent to Presbytery by **9th April**. We know that you cannot meet in person, so encourage you to meet electronically, if you have not already made a nomination.

Information regarding the processes for nominations has been sent to parishes, but can also be [downloaded here](#).

You are reminded that all nominations must be accompanied by:

- A 150 word statement about the nominee's wider church experience, leadership skills and suitability for the role.
- The nominee's signed permission for their name to be forwarded.

## PCANZ Newsletters

- **Presbyterian Church Property Trustees - Covid-19 Update:** Download the [Update from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees addressing Covid-19 questions and issues](#).

They advise that they have had a number of questions from parishes regarding access to PIF balances, and parishes are recommended to look to the government for assistance before consuming scarce reserves.

However, please contact them if there is anything they can assist with or if you have any questions.

- [Treasurers' News March 2020 Issue 212](#)

## Resources for families

PSUSI have shared various resources from their Family Works team and other social services agencies which may be of assistance.

- Mental Health Foundation: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
- Mind Heart Kids: [https://mcusercontent.com/8977d908ce7d0996c48e1bfd8/files/643b486d-3eee-42b0-8a3e-d22cf574304e/Explaining\\_COVID\\_19\\_to\\_kids.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/8977d908ce7d0996c48e1bfd8/files/643b486d-3eee-42b0-8a3e-d22cf574304e/Explaining_COVID_19_to_kids.pdf)
- Social Workers Tool Box: <http://www.socialworkerstoolbox.com/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-parents-carers/>
- Info on buses: <http://www.metroinfo.co.nz/promotions/Pages/Help-keep-us-all-well.aspx>
- List of essential businesses and services: <https://covid19.govt.nz/help-and-advice/for-businesses-and-organisations/employers/>

## Donate to Presbyterian Support

For many older people, children and families the COVID-19 lockdown is an incredibly difficult time. It brings increased stressors to already-vulnerable people, and reduces access to their usual supports, including school, work, friends, extended family, and more.

Presbyterian Support frontline staff are working tirelessly to support clients during the lockdown. They are calling and video-calling to prevent social isolation and to provide counselling services, dropping off supplies, and more. They would greatly appreciate any financial support you can offer at this time. This will ensure their teams can continue to help those that need it the most.

They thank you for your support and we ask for prayer over their staff and their families also.

Donate at [psuppersouth.org.nz/donate](https://psuppersouth.org.nz/donate).

(Unfortunately, they cannot accept donated goods such as knitting items and food at this time due to isolation restrictions.)

## South Island Ministry Conference 2020 - **cancelled**

### From last week

- **New Executive Officer**
- **Presbytery Gathering - Postponed**
- **Practical Advice around Covid19:** <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>,
- **Celebrating a new phase— induction of rev Dennis Flett**
- **Science and Christianity—Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** (*cancelled*)
- **Pastoral message from the Moderator about the Coronavirus**
- **Council of Assembly News**
- **New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library**
- **New Presbyterian Research Centre Archives website**
- **Presbytery Contacts**

#### A Speed of Soul Invocation

May we all find a stillness of heart.  
May we take this moment to breathe.  
There are so many things we cannot do or change at this moment.  
And yet there will be opportunities to make our own difference,  
Day by day,  
One kindness and then another  
Extended to others  
And ourselves.

May we learn to breathe and reach down and reach out  
When we encounter the uncomfortable feelings  
That come up when we are faced with the unknown,  
Or when we are forced to slow down.  
May we be moved by a new understanding of what it means  
Personally, or for others we love, to be "at risk",  
Opening a window of compassion into the lives of those  
Who are always at risk just because of who they are.

Let us remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint.  
We are going to live like this for a while...but not always.

May we remember the experiences in the past  
That can help us navigate what we are experiencing now,  
Let us remain open to new understanding and new skills  
We might acquire in the coming days, weeks and months.

May we find beauty, create beauty,  
May we live to learn from this experience and on the other side  
May we accept the invitation,  
Wipe our tears, grieve our losses  
Recognize the holes in the system, and gaps in our lives  
And with courage and grace  
Do things differently.

May you be safe, may you be well my friends,

Carrie Newcomer

### Presbytery Contact Details

**Executive Officer**

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**Alpine Presbytery Moderator, Rev**

**Anne Stewart**

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**Presbytery Resource Minister**

**Rev Dr Darryl Tempero:**

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Phone: 027 556 0055

Other items can be sent to Gail

Weaver, Office Support, at

[gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

### Newsletter Items

We will be continuing with the Newsletter over the lockdown period. If you have notices or resources to share, please email to [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

We encourage you to share this Newsletters around your Parish, especially with members of Session/ Parish Council & all office bearers. Anyone wanting to go on the distribution lists to receive the Newsletter directly, please email their details to Gail

*Cut off date for items for inclusion in next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 2nd April**.*