



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 27th August 2020

Covid-19 in South Auckland

Alpine has made contact with one of our Pacific ministers in Mangere to offer our care and concern as their community wrestles with the implications of the current outbreak of Covid-19. Rev Maua Sola offered us the following information which you are welcome to share in your churches. Some key prayer points from his words are offered to assist people who wish to pray for them.

In South Auckland there are hundreds of parishes from different denominations, many are either fully or partly Pacific in making up, with the rest being European and Asian. Loss of income through job losses is an ongoing concern. Many jobs can't be done from home, like factory, manufacturing etc... so the issues range from no job, no income, or reduced income, and everything is affected. Some families have only a mobile, with no data, wifi and no landline. Some don't have anything other than a home address. It is not helpful for contact tracing.

Pacific Island people are very mobile. Families like to gather across Auckland for functions, occasions, family worship, etc across the boundaries. This can't happen anymore at Level 3.

You will have seen how Pacific people responded in getting tested. Record numbers for NZ in two straight weeks. All of the churches are doing their part including Mangere PIC. Worship Services are reduced in some. There is no food/feasts/functions/morning tea in some.

Many Pacific churches will wait for level 1 before starting back. Government has been good in its response. It just needs to always get its messaging clear and consistent. Pacific people will respond. The testing numbers are proof. Now everyone is wearing masks. Again, clear message equals a clear response.

Some churches have good financial reserves. Others are not so good. Everyone is operating on tight budgets. Some churches have stopped parishioners giving since the first lockdown.

Thank you for your concern. All parishes, all communities are in the same boat. Including yourselves. God bless you all.

Prayer points:

- *Pray for the ministers and leaders in the church communities of South Auckland as they care for their people and help them manage themselves in these trying circumstances.*
- *Pray for those affected by illness, or job loss, or separation from their families.*
- *Pray for the Government and health agencies that the contact tracing, testing, and the provision of effective supply chains, will be effective and enable the eradication of the virus in the community.*

May the peace of God which passes all understanding envelope these affected communities and may the love of God continue to be demonstrated in the life and witness of the churches.

COMING UP

First Aid Course: 29 August at The Village, Papanui

Closing date for Presbytery Grant and Alpine Mission Fund applications: 31 August

Presbytery Gathering: 11-12th September, in Christchurch

Garage Sale: 12 September at St Andrew's Blenheim

Presbytery Retreat: 11-12th October, in Hanmer Springs

Blenheim Garden Tour: 17 & 18 October—contact St Andrew's Blenheim



Presbytery Gathering

Registration is now open for the Gathering, which is to be held at The Village, Bryndwr, 11th & 12th September. Go to: <https://forms.gle/5wfRGs8Sa3sCY6dB6>, or you can also find the form on our website, on the Events page.

The Gathering is a chance for us to meet people from around our Presbytery and experience key learning and connecting time together. All ordained ministers and Presbytery Elders are encouraged to attend, but **everyone is welcome!**

The pre-Gathering event this time is the Rural Ministries get together:

Stop for a moment and ask yourself what sort of ministry do you work in. Is it urban or rural? Rural parishes usually have a unique style and flavour compared to urban parishes. The issues they face can be very different, and the way in which they organise their parish life is often a response to the cycles of rural life and the community as a whole.

We aim to gather rural ministry people together to encourage and challenge each other to be the very best that God wants us to be, where God has planted us. At times this might be physical but at other times it would be electronically. It would be a place to share ideas, get advice and develop resources for the mission.

So we invite those that wish to begin a journey of discovery together to meet over a BYO lunch from 12.30pm - 2.30pm to explore how we can encourage and support each other where God has planted us.

Draft outline of the Gathering

Friday 11th:

- * 12.30pm – 2.30pm Rural/small town ministries get-together
- * 3pm Afternoon tea
- * 3.30pm Welcome, devotions, introductions, commissioning of Martin Stewart as EO. Presentation and discussion around Strategic Framework
- * 5.30pm byo drinks (with nibbles provided)
- * 6pm Sit down dinner and celebration of Barry Ayer's ministry
- * 8pm - finish

Saturday 12th

- * 9am Worship, including changeover of Moderator
- * Comings and Goings – inductions and retirements
- * Presentation of Have a Go (including a video from Whakatu),
- * Morning Tea
- * 11am Speaker/Interaction – Donald Scott
- * 12.30pm Lunch
- * 1.15pm TELT review discussion
- * Any other business.

Referendum briefing for pastors and leaders in Christchurch

With Caralise Traves author of 'The Final Choice' and Alan Vink from Leadership Worx.

Date: Tuesday 1st September, 2020

Time: 10.00am Coffee for a 10.30am – Midday Briefing.

Venue: Hope Presbyterian Church, 27 Amyes Rd, Hornby, Christchurch.

Cost: \$10pp or \$15 couple—*Please pay on the day at the door. No need for a prior registration.*

This is a briefing for pastors/ministers/vicars including ministry staff, elders and Christian leaders of Organisations.

For more information contact darryl@alpinepresbytery.org

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Presbytery Directory

We are now using Infoodle, so anyone wanting to access information from the Directory will need a logon.

Most Parish Offices have already been given a logon, so you may be able to get any information you need from there.

If you have a need for your own logon access, email Gail at gail@alpinepresbytery.org. Please bear in mind that we do need to be aware of our obligations under the Privacy Act.

Referendum Questions

In this Year's election we are being asked to vote on two important Referendum questions. "Do you support the End of Life Choice Act 2019 coming into force"? And "Do you support the Cannabis Legalisation and control referendum"?

Kaikoura parish have been considering the questions and have resources to try to help people understand what is being asked. If you would like to know more about these resources, please contact Rev Martin Harrison at kaikourarev@gmail.com

In the meantime, try your hand at this quiz to see how much you are already "in the know".

- 1) Will the Act automatically become law if a majority vote in favour at the referendum?
- 2) Can a terminally ill person be eligible for assisted dying if they have depression or a mental illness?
- 3) Do the doctors who sign off on the assisted dying need to have met the person before?
- 4) What's the shortest time the assisted dying process could take? 4 Days, 10 days, 20 days
- 5) Does a doctor have to talk to the person's family before providing assisted dying?
- 6) Do independent witnesses need to make sure that the person's choice is free from any pressure?
- 7) Would this Act make it legal to turn off life support?
- 8) Does an eligible person need to be in any physical pain to request assisted dying?
- 9) Do people have to try any treatment options first before requesting assisted dying?
- 10) Can an eligible 18-year-old receive a lethal dose without their parents knowing?

Take the test on line and learn the answers: <https://www.votesafe.nz/quiz?fbclid=IwAR3mTUdPir95Rf-64VJzh264JsEY8-bUoWn0Av6UJweXgpDLta-VEKlpCsQ>

Ministry Vacancies

Click on the links provided to download/view the details of these vacancies.

- St Peter's Church, Ellerslie/Mount Wellington, Auckland: full-time to 0.75 sole charge Minister. ([St Peter's Church advert](#))
- St John's Papatoetoe: full-time Minister ([St John's Church advert](#))
- Uniting Church in Western Australia: Associate General Secretary (Strategy). ([UCWA advert](#))

From the last Newsletter

- **Progress at Kaikoura**
- **Rev Johanna van der Kley**
- **EcuAction Forum Series: late postponement**
- **[Presbyterian Children & Families Ministry Newsletter](#)**
- **New journal table-of-contents in the Hewitson Library**

Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

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

Resources

A selection of resources and links to resources to assist you with your work and outreach can be found on our website here: alpinepresbytery.org/resources/

Newsletter Items

Please share this Newsletter around your Parish, especially with members of Session/Parish Council and all office bearers.

Details of events, or requests to be added to the distribution list, should be emailed to gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Cut off date for next Newsletter is **Thursday 3rd September**

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4nighgg/AABDjLatKU2-C2revVHA6hVza?dl=0>