

# Newsletter



17 MAY 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Te Rātapu Tuaona o Te Aranga

*Living God's Love - Welcoming - Worshipping*

## FROM THE DEAN

Like me you were probably a little surprised and disappointed about the restrictions around gatherings of up to 10 only for churches. So, I thought I might just give you an update on what Level 2 (as it stands now) will look like at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

In a nutshell... the same as Level 3 and 4!!

We will continue to offer virtual church. *Evening Prayer* at 5pm Monday to Thursday, *Staying Connected with the Dean* on Friday, and *Morning Worship* at 10am on Sunday. That is until we hear what changes are likely with the Government's next announcement on Monday 25 May. We will then reassess our position and plans going forward and communicate this with you.

It would seem that the principal is that we can be in the vicinity of strangers at an appropriate distance but we must continue to limit the number of close contacts we have i.e. number of people we gather and interact with. The purpose of this is to enable contact tracing that is feasible as the restrictions on our movements are eased somewhat.

So, in an odd kind of way being deprived of one and others company for a little while longer is an acknowledgement of our importance to one another. We are not a bunch of strangers turning up at the same place. We are the Body of Christ and so for the safety of one and another we will continue to be apart for a little while longer. While I find it hard, I also find that I am strangely glad to know that in setting this rule Cabinet seems to get what church is all about (the sacred piece aside, it involves lots of movement, sharing, singing, handshakes, kisses and cuddles!!).

Until we can meet in the same place as a gathered community may God keep you and those you love and pray for in God's tender care. Know that we all miss you and continue to hold you in our thoughts and prayers. Know also that we do not make this journey alone but that God is with us and the promise is that he will not forsake us or leave us. Anne

*The Dean's full message can be found by clicking [Staying Connected](#)*



# VIRTUAL CHURCH

## OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Access our video content at:

<https://bit.ly/HTCYouTube>

Monday to Thursday at 5pm

EVENING PRAYER

Every Friday at 5pm

STAYING CONNECTED

Reflections with DEAN ANNE

Children's Church resources

[www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

Upper Room Youth Resources  
please email:

[office@holy-trinity.org.nz](mailto:office@holy-trinity.org.nz)

Whoever  
loves me  
will be  
loved by  
my father.

*Jesus*

**SUNDAY 17 MAY AT 10AM**  
**LITURGY OF THE WORD and**  
**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

The Reverend Sarah West  
*Curate at Holy Trinity Cathedral*

**Readings:**

Acts 17:22-31

1 Pet 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

We appreciate  
your feedback.

Email Merle at

[office@holy-trinity.org.nz](mailto:office@holy-trinity.org.nz)

Visit our Prayer wall  
[here.](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/holy.t.cathedral>

Website: <http://www.holy-trinity.org.nz/>



## We pray for:

Bishop Ross as he leads the Diocese, and for Bishop Kito in Te Tai Tokerau. Bishop Jim White and his family. We also pray for our Archbishops Don, Philip and Cama.

Our clergy, staff, Board and Council as they consider new ways of worship and community in the coming days.

Our own community as social isolation threatens to bring with it a real sense of loneliness and anxiety.

Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Auckland City Mission, and Selwyn Foundation as they provide support for families, the homeless, the elderly, and the vulnerable in Auckland. Especially at this time of uncertainty and change.

Our NZ government leaders and policy makers.

For the families of the victims in the recent maternity hospital attack in Kabul. The newborn babies, mothers and nurses who were killed.

For God's mercy on all involved in the renewed violence in Israel's West Bank.

For the +/- 23,000 Nigerian refugees that have fled to Niger since April to escape the violence in Northern Nigeria.

## THE CATHEDRAL PRAYER CHAIN

For confidential prayer requests  
please contact:

Lynette Wright 09 845 0260

## MARRIAGES TO CELEBRATE AND PRAY FOR

*Ying Yang & Qihang Zheng (8 May)*  
and *Felicity Jane Souter & Matthew Hartley West (16 May).*

May their marriages be strengthened by God's grace.



Dear Friends

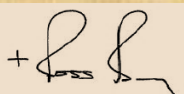
As I listened hopefully to the Prime Minister on Monday afternoon and began to take in all that was going to start happening again, you will imagine my surprise and frustration when she announced that church gatherings would be restricted to 10 people for at least the next fortnight. We believe that we have put in place the kind of measures that would provide for safe gathering. It is very disappointing to learn that we are placed in the same category as parties because of the strong “fellowship” nature of church life. I was particularly annoyed to learn that pubs and bars will open before our situation is even re-considered when we have consistently been told that drinking establishments are the highest risk environments.

The Bishops of the NZ Dioceses have consulted about this and Archbishop Philip is in touch with Archbishop Don, and with Cardinal John Dew of the Roman Catholic Church. This afternoon a letter will go jointly from our churches to the Prime Minister and Cabinet to raise our objections to this decision and to seek a review of it based on the protocols we have put in place to ensure that we provide a safe environment for worship.

In the meantime, we have little choice than to act responsibly within the parameters which have been set down for churches and religious gatherings. **That means that we cannot gather groups of more than 10 people.** This continues to apply to wedding and funeral services. That means that the earliest date on which we could plan to hold Sunday worship would be Pentecost Day, 31st May. Liturgically this seems to me like a splendid day for the Church to re-birth itself! I encourage you to plan for worship on that day with a good dollop of faith and hope while we wait for the Government's further advice.

Church staff can return to their offices if they wish and begin to work more normally again. Obviously, the necessary physical distancing, cleaning, and contact tracing arrangements will need to be put in place. There is the tricky question about the use of church halls and lounges. If we cannot gather, then that would imply that other community groups for whom fellowship is a central part of their life should also not gather. On the other hand, there may be other commercial groups who are able to function under the new rules, e.g. exercise groups, education classes, and so on. Please make a local policy decision about when you are willing to open your buildings to other groups. I ask that you then work out with each of your user groups whether or not they are a group that is able to meet within the current Level 2 parameters. If they are, and you are in agreement, then you will need to ensure that you are satisfied with their public health arrangements for physical distancing, personal and venue hygiene, and contact tracing.

Once again, I thank you for your perseverance through these many weeks of change and uncertainty. Let us continue to pray for one another in the work to which we are called.



Bishop



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CATHEDRAL  
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a/c no: 02 0192 0031919 00  
For receipt enter your name as reference

Or click [donate](#) now.

**DEAN**

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We will be back in the office from Monday 18 May 2020

Please contact us [via phone or email](#) as we will not be  
open to the public yet.