



Nelson Anglican Updates

Staying Connected as a Faith Community



Message from Bishop Steve

Kia Ora Whānau. What a week it's been. I don't know about you but I can't believe how much the world has changed in such a short period of time due to Covid-19. I have already been in isolation due to returning from overseas and now the whole country joins me in lockdown, so I would love to share some tips with you about self-isolation.

Whilst I recognise this can be a difficult and anxious time for many I believe this time is still a gift from God. The gift presents itself in many forms; this is an opportunity to connect with family, make those meals you've always wanted to make, read those books that you've been delaying reading and gives time to relax

without the pressure of schedules, meetings and travel. This quarantine gives you more time to pray, more time to read your bible, more time to do random acts of kindness with those in your 'bubble,' more time to reflect and more time to think about your life, priorities and purpose. Those of us who live busy lives (which is many of you!) have time to stop and hit a reset button. And did I say more time to exercise – yep! I've been enjoying my runs.

These are just some of the practical opportunities that present themselves but what impresses me most is the opportunity that lies before us to go deeper and connect with God. Can I encourage you to use the resources available to you, there are plenty of wonderful Bible apps available.

Why not set a goal to get through the New Testament in this lockdown period and find a rhythm and a routine that suits you - I will be doing the same. During this period we will also be sending out a regular newsletter (much like this) to give updates, encouragements and stories of hope.

Finally - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 New International Version (NIV).



Key Updates

Rachel Boyack, Health & Safety Coordinator

The risk to our nation, our community, and our Diocesan family due to Covid-19 is now officially very high as we adjust to Alert Level Four and a national State of Emergency.

Keeping you informed and safe is an absolute priority to us. You will find on our new website a link to the latest updates on Covid-19. For up to date information from the New Zealand Government on the current Covid-19 alert level and what this means for you and your family, please visit www.covid19.govt.nz.

We have also posted a link to updates for Parishes regarding our policies and what this means going forward. Please stay safe, stay home in accordance with government regulations, stop the spread and save lives!

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Children's Resources

Sue Fallow, Children & Family Minister

Hey, this is Sue Fallow hoping you are all keeping well. What a great, but definitely unusual, opportunity this pandemic has created for families!! An opportunity to grow together in faith as well as form tighter relationships. To assist you to make this an exciting and productive time, I suggest you regularly check out the Children's section of new diocesan website.

Why? Because over this period of time I will be posting faith-based activity ideas, devotions and just general fun ideas of things you can do as a family unit. As well as... a challenge of the week. The children's section of the website is in the form of a blog so there's a section where you can post comments and photos. (For safety's sake, protect your children by making sure their faces are not included in any photos you may post.)

It would be great if you use this comments section, as it will assist us all to keep connected. PLUS in the 'Church at Home' section you will find intergenerational service ideas that you could use and adapt for your own home situation.

Together we can make this a time we will fondly remember. One you will look back on where your family developed not only closer relationships but made an extra effort to have fun together. But also, one when each person developed life-long faith rhythms marking it as a significant time in each person's personal, faith journey.

Let's have fun and stay connected.



Youth Resources

Brad Wood, Youth Enabler

Let's face it, youth group is epic. You get to hang with your fam, party to praise music, eat food, learn about how flipping amazing Jesus is and so much more! So let's not let a little thing like social distancing get in the way of a good time!

We have an amazing team of youth leaders who are launching their youth groups into digital space and you're welcome to join! If you're a young person who would like to join an online youth group then please send us your details and we'll link you up with one of our amazing youth leaders. Head on over to our new website and check out the youth page for more information: www.nelsonanglicans.com/youth

Story of Hope

Sue Fallow, Children & Family Minister

Preparing for lockdown was such a frantic time for everyone. For leaders of Parish based Children and Families ministries, it was a very short window in which to decide how best to serve the families they minister to and with. Usually you would canvass the families and this is what Emily Campbell of All Saints did. While Sam Langford from St Stephen's had a pretty good idea of what those in her preschool ministry would appreciate-craft activity kits! So these young women set about creating, collating and delivering a kit to each of the families in their care. All in a 48 hour window!! This was achieved and I am sure will be much appreciated by the families that received them.



Ministry Resource

*Rev Dr Graham O'Brien,
Ministry Education Coordinator*

As we go through the next 4 or so weeks, we can use some of that time to deepen our faith as disciples of Jesus. Church is certainly going to look different over this time, but that doesn't mean that learning and fellowship have to draw to an end- after all we are the Church as the body of Christ! During this time of change and uncertainty it is important to maintain some spiritual practices that will sustain our relationship with God.

By drawing on spiritual rhythms and practices we can intentionally grow closer to God during this time. This could mean listening or singing songs of worship as a way to continue our connection with God and uplift our spirit. We can also be encouraged in our faith, to receive strength through the words of others, and deepen our faith through engaging in learning. There are also a number of ways that we, the body of Christ, can stay connected even without technology, by simply knowing that we are praying the same prayers as others, or joining in some act of worship at the same time as others (eg candle lighting). For those with technology, there is the opportunity to worship together using your computer. On the new website we have a range of resources and worship links - please utilise these in the coming weeks and involve as many as you can with you! We pray that these resources will enable you to feel connected - to others, but most of all to God.