



# Nelson Anglican Updates

*Staying Connected as a Faith Community*



## Message from Bishop Steve

As we find ourselves a couple of weeks into this isolation period the word that strikes me is 'spotlight.' When you are confined to one space for a length of time you begin to notice more and more detail, including things that need reorganizing, thrown out or freshened up. Even as I sit here I am noticing pictures on my wall that need straightening up! Now that hurry has been eliminated there is time and space not only to look inward but to also look outward.

Inwardly this time has allowed God to highlight some of my habits and behaviours that need realignment with who Jesus is. One key thing I feel the Lord pressing on me is the need for a sabbath. Whilst there are a lot of challenges in the world and things that are genuinely on the

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'to do' list, there is also a unique and special place for the sabbath as we rest and allow God to be God. When we allow him space he actually comes and fixes us, making us more effective in our given fields as we grow into his image. Sabbath can come in many forms, including taking a rest from our devices and the constant pull to be 'connected' digitally, which at times can rob us from living in the present.

As I look beyond local news into the world I start to see many things which allow me a greater appreciation for the good things happening right now in New Zealand. I'm impressed by the creativity being demonstrated online as leaders embrace technology to do blogs, livestreaming and Facetime prayer meetings. We have so much to be thankful for in this country with a government who can give us a business subsidy, a health system that is working and supermarkets who can still put

food on the table. Many of the other countries in the world right now are struggling and cannot provide these things for their people.

As we approach Easter weekend let us remember that Jesus came that we may have life in abundance. The gift he offers us because of the cross includes peace, grace, forgiveness, hope and love. My prayer is that this weekend we would experience fresh grace from heaven as we remember him and learn to receive all the gifts he has generously given us. Why not mark this Easter with a special family meal, inviting Jesus into your home and allowing him the space to minister to your bubble. Don't forget there are also many resources online at the new website under the Easter tab which are there for you to utilize.

Finally - Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24 [NIV]



## Health Updates

*Rachel Boyack, Health & Safety Coordinator*

As I write this we are approaching two weeks of lockdown. Hopefully, we only have another two weeks to go, but I'm encouraging you all not to become complacent so that we can come out of lockdown as soon as possible. There are some good signs that the 'curve is flattening', but it

only takes a few missteps and we could see an increase in cases again. You only need to look at the number of cases in the 'clusters' in places like Matamata and Bluff, to see how easily the virus can spread to large numbers of people.

You may be interested to read that Google recently published data on which communities in New Zealand were best at complying with the lockdown rules. Nelson and West Coast were the best in New Zealand - well done to us! I'm sure Tasman and Marlborough have been really great too!

I'd like to acknowledge the Diocesan pastoral care teams who are working really hard across all of our parishes to stay connected to our older parishioners, including some who are safely doing grocery pick-ups and drop-offs. If any parishes are offering this service please get in touch with me so we can support you to do this safely, including providing hand sanitiser to your teams. Civil Defence have given the thumbs up to our shopping procedures, which can be found on the Updates page of our new website.

The government has funded two websites with really helpful tools to assist with mental health, one which is focused on kids. For many of us, being in isolation like this is very unnatural, so don't be afraid to reach out for help if you or someone in your bubble needs support. The website links are [www.allright.org.nz/campaigns/getting-through-together](http://www.allright.org.nz/campaigns/getting-through-together) (Getting Through Together) and [sparklers.org.nz/parenting](http://sparklers.org.nz/parenting) (Sparklers at home). You can phone or text 1737 for free mental health support anytime of the day or night as well.

Finally, if you or someone you know needs urgent welfare support (e.g. groceries, housing, or other essentials) then you can phone one of the Civil Defence phone numbers for support. The numbers are Nelson - 03 546 0200, Tasman - 03 543 8400, Marlborough - 03 520 7400 and West Coast - 03 900 9329.

Keep up the great work everyone! Stay home and save lives!



## Children's Ministry

*Sue Fallow, Children & Families Enabler*

As we all explore what church means in our new context, it is good to hear what children and family's workers in the Nelson Diocese are doing to maintain connections and worship in their parishes.

In a conversation with Tim Mora Jnr from St Stephen's, we discover how he is using video calling as a pastoral care tool and recording a weekly, interactive Kids show for Sunday worship.

*In these unprecedented times, Tim, how are you continuing your children and families ministry?*

I am using a variety of ways to contact and support the families. One way is that I am video calling them. So I organise appointments with them and during the call I say 'Hi' to and interact with the kids and their parent's. I ask some key questions based around what they have been doing within their bubble, the kids often have things to show me. Also I ask about they have been doing spiritually as a family. We always have a laugh, I find that laughter is really important.

For the Sunday programme I have been recording an interactive, Kid's Show which is turning me into a Kid's TV presenter!! The programme starts with a song that the kids can dance around their lounges to. I sing and play the guitar. Weekly, sometimes more than once a week, I have been issuing challenges that the kids are really responding to. These are based on the programme and involve fun activities such as record yourself telling jokes and send them to me. Each kid has a progress sheet that I am filling in for them. They are working towards a chocolate reward that they will receive when we are out of isolation. I thought I would keep

issuing challenges after we are out of isolation, so the reward will not be instant.

*After these first few weeks, what have you learnt?*

In video calling with kids you need an agenda, some structure to the call, or they don't talk to you and just sit silently. The other key thing is connection. This whole lockdown situation has necessitated more connection between people and shown just how important it is to stay connected. I am also more aware of how important and helpful it is if we share resources.



## Youth

*Brad Wood, Youth Enabler*

The best thing about Easter: Jesus. Second best thing about Easter: Easter Camp (EC). Just because we're in lockdown over Easter doesn't mean that we can't have plenty of both! Over the past week we've had some great Easter competitions being run by our amazing youth workers and even though we can't physically be at camp, this year EC is coming to you! The amazing EC team are going to be running some amazing worship sets, games, speaker slots and workshops on Instagram and Facebook over the Easter weekend and you are more than welcome to join in. For more information chat to your youth leader or head over to [@ECWatchparty](#) on Instagram or Southern Eastercamp on Facebook. Huge Easter blessings to you all.



## Ministry

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

This year we are certainly celebrating Easter in a different way, and more likely than not on our own or with our immediate family. But as we come to celebrate Easter it is worth remembering that we can join together as the Body of Christ by participating in one of the services below. In NZ we begin the wave of praise that will sweep the world as Christians across the globe celebrate Easter. More than that however, in gathering for worship in our homes we join the eternal song of praise that continues in heaven. This year our worship may feel small, but as we join together it is truly global and universal as we worship Christ the Lord of all.

Please enjoy Easter in your bubble and participate in any of the following services being run online which you can access from [www.nelsonanglicans.com/easterblog/easterservices](http://www.nelsonanglicans.com/easterblog/easterservices)

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### **ALL SAINTS, NELSON**

Good Friday: Morning Prayer at 7.30am  
Easter Sunday: 9am & 10.30am  
[www.facebook.com/AllSaintsNelson](http://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsNelson)

### **BULLER PARISH**

Easter Sunday message available from  
[www.churchinwestport.co.nz](http://www.churchinwestport.co.nz)

### **CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, NELSON (LIVE STREAMED)**

Good Friday: 10am  
Easter Sunday: 10am  
[nelsoncathedral.nz/sunday-service-live-stream](http://nelsoncathedral.nz/sunday-service-live-stream)

### **COBDEN-RUNUNGA PARISH**

Maundy Thursday: 7pm  
Good Friday: 10.30am  
Easter Sunday: 10.30am  
To join these services via zoom, please email Ven Tim Mora ([timmora@xtra.co.nz](mailto:timmora@xtra.co.nz))

### **HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH, MAPUA**

Good Friday: 9.30am  
Easter Sunday: 9.30am  
Hills Community Church YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCvYbiOuxh0l-FqpZOJniYoQ?](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvYbiOuxh0l-FqpZOJniYoQ?)  
[www.hillscommunitychurch.org.nz](http://www.hillscommunitychurch.org.nz)

### **HOLY TRINITY, RICHMOND**

Easter Sunday: 9am  
Youtube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCNWcjoHBEvIUzwJFGptBqtQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNWcjoHBEvIUzwJFGptBqtQ)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Richmond-Anglican-Parish-106025267710346/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](http://www.facebook.com/Richmond-Anglican-Parish-106025267710346/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

### **PICTON AND HAVELOCK PARISHES**

Pre-recorded and encouraged to watch at:  
Good Friday: 10am  
Easter Sunday: 9am or 10.30am  
To view go to [vimeo.com/405608999](http://vimeo.com/405608999)





## Story of Hope

*Rev Sue Howarth*

Our Community Gardens were set up some years ago, a joint effort between our church St Peters and the local Pelorus Area Health Trust. St Peter's received a grant to help us pay an eldercare worker who goes weekly to gather the vegetables and visit the elderly in the area. There are about twenty on our list. Our elder-care worker, Cathy Ruffel is away in Christchurch supporting her husband through chemo and had delegated another of our team to do the job in her absence, but with Covid-19 kicking in I had to lovingly sack him as he is over 70. That meant in the meantime it is my job to go down weekly to gather the vegetables.

Whereas before there was a warm companionship as folk worked the gardens together, now the team have go individually, wearing gloves and taking their own tools. One person harvests (wearing gloves of course) and then phones me to say the coast is clear. I then collect the vegetables and do a ring around having a chat to folk and then head out for a walk to deliver.

It has been as important for those who garden as it is for those who receive the vegetables to have a sense of 'normal'. We have worked with Civil Defense to be sure we are on track with safety procedures. We've come to realise in this semi-rural area the harvesting and use of the community resources already put in place is crucial to the mental health of all concerned.

I usually find people are hovering in their driveways or on the verandah looking out for me and we get another chat. I tend to make it at least a 5 metre distance when it comes to our vulnerable. I often get a phone call the next day to tell me what they have made and another word of appreciation for the parcel. Generally the attitude to this lockdown by our elders has been one of resilience and gratitude that they live in a region where there is so much community support.

I have found the upside of this season to be the divine encounters I keep having, meeting and greeting local people I didn't know before as they take their daily stroll. Also there has been much better communication with the local Health Trust which has several new members who were not aware of the history or the resources available, including our foodbank. Several of these members are making preserves, jams and stewing and freezing the fruit for me to add to the vegetables pack. There is an all round building of goodwill in the village. It is good to be a local Vicar on the streets, becoming better known and serving in such a practical way.

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