



Nelson Anglican Updates

Staying Connected as a Faith Community

“As we face an uncertain future together we do have one certainty we can cling to as people of faith, Jesus Christ the rock on which we stand.”



Message from Bishop Steve

Greetings to you all and I hope you had a blessed Easter within your bubble. Today I want to expand on last week's theme of noticing what's happening within us but also around us to what is happening in the world. We are in the midst of going deeper with God, our bubbles and families, but we also have an opportunity to look beyond the bubble. After connecting with Minister's from overseas and hearing about the difficult situations people are facing I am convinced we have much to be thankful for.

This pandemic is undoubtedly affecting the globe, which in some respects puts us all in the same boat. We can know that we are not alone in this struggle, not just because we know Jesus but because there is no one who is exempt from the repercussions of COVID-19. There is also always going to be someone in a far worse position than we are currently in, which provides ample opportunity for us to think of others, pray for others and thank God for the good things we do have. There are large families in parts of the world living in the slums of a 10 by 10 foot room whilst having to obey lockdown rules. There are countries which already had significant unemployment rates to start with who are now seriously economically unstable. We are fortunate that in New Zealand we currently have the resources for social security and government bailout packages, because there are many countries who don't have this type of privilege. As well as prayer there are practical ways we are called to help others which organisations like Anglican Missions (AM) head up in partnership with our Church. At the end of this newsletter there is information on what the AM group are currently working on (including a COVID 19 initiative) and how you can partner with them to make a difference.

As we face an uncertain future together we do have one certainty we can cling to as people of faith, Jesus Christ the rock on which we stand. We know that God is close to the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. We know that God gives grace to the humble, to those who have reached the end of themselves. The Word gives permission and even exhorts us to have confidence in Him and to lean on Him in times of trouble. This pandemic may have burst a number of bubbles, but with our feet placed firmly on the rock and our hope in the Lord we will get through this together. My prayer is that we would know Jesus as our comfort, provider and strength whilst learning to look out for the needs of others as well.

Finally, Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.



Health Updates

Rachel Boyack, Health & Safety Coordinator

We've had a really good week in the Diocese, with no new Covid-19 cases in our regions. However, it's important we stick closely to the Level 4 rules until we are given the OK to move to Level 3. By stopping community transmission we are saving many lives from being lost.

Yesterday the Prime Minister outlined what the rules will look like under Alert Level 3, if we are

able to move in that direction soon. Cabinet will make a decision on Monday about if/when we can move to Alert Level 3.

At a Diocesan level, we've been working on what the new guidance means for us at Alert Levels 1, 2 and 3. Once we know more from Cabinet next week we will issue guidance on what we can and can't do under Alert Level 3.

The main changes at Alert Level 3 for the Diocese are:

- Funerals and weddings of up to 10 people can be held under Alert Level 3. Please contact myself or the Bishop to talk through how to run these safely before you proceed. In the case of funerals, the Funeral Director will also be able to provide advice.
- Our family 'bubbles' can be extended under Alert Level 3, however there are still very strict rules and common sense to be followed so that we are not opening up large chains of transmission. We will issue more guidance on this next week.
- We are hoping to introduce 'Pastoral care bubbles' and are developing guidance on how these bubbles could work, within the Government rules and following good Health and Safety practices.

I will be in touch early next week to issue the Alert Level 3 guidance for the Diocese. In the meantime, please email me atHS@nelsonanglican.nz if you have questions or ideas.

Stay safe, stay home, and save lives!

"We are hoping to introduce 'Pastoral care bubbles' and are developing guidance on how these bubbles could work, within the Government rules and following good Health and Safety practices."



Youth

Brad Wood, Youth Enabler

Each year, young people from around the Diocese participate in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine. This is an event where you fast from something important, usually food, for 40 hours and have people sponsor you to do it, with the money raised going towards fighting hunger and injustice around the world. In 2019 All Saints Church Nelson hosted a 40 Hour Famine event and used it as an opportunity to engage our young people in what it looks like to pursue justice and compassion as followers of Jesus. Not only did they use the content from World Vision over the weekend but they went one step further-on Saturday morning they hit the streets of Nelson to share about The Loyal Workshop. Loyal are a freedom business that makes leather goods in Kolkata, India and employs women who have been trafficked into slavery. It's an amazing story of hope, freedom and restoration which our young people really engage with.

This past week I interviewed Nathan, one of our Nelson Diocese family members who works for Loyal, to get to know a bit more about the story of Loyal and how Covid-19 is effecting them. It was really interesting to hear about what lockdown looks like in a very different country to New Zealand. The video interview is available today (Friday 17th) so make sure you check out the Diocese website, Facebook page or YouTube account. Nathan also talked about some of the needs of Loyal and that during the Indian lockdown the workshop is shut but they still want to pay the women working there so that they can survive! For people who would like to support Loyal through these challenges they are holding a "Virtual 5km Fundraiser Run"

where you can run, walk or just donate to cheer people on. Nathan is taking the run fundraiser to the next level as he is running a full marathon and is wanting to raise \$100 per kilometre (\$4200) to support World Vision to fight the spread of Covid-19 in India. If you want to get involved I'll put a link to the support pages below.

This year our young people will once again have the opportunity to get involved in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine and support The Loyal Workshop, but it might look a little different from 2019. Maybe in the midst of lockdown, alert levels and Covid-19 anxiety, sharing and pursuing the hope, freedom and restoration of Jesus has become more important than ever? I look forward to seeing how our young people engage with these opportunities over the coming months.

Loyal Fundraiser: www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/run-5km-for-loyal-tickets-102217186356

Nathan's Fundraiser: givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/httpswwwfacebookcomnatehuge

Aroha nui,
Brad

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Children's Ministry

Sue Fallow, Children & Families Enabler

Pastoral Care for families

Around the diocese people leading ministries to children and their families are finding a variety of ways to stay connected with those they minister to. Some are using more traditional ways while others are using technology. No matter what method is being used, everyone is creatively thinking outside the box. While the urban areas of the Diocese have easy access to the internet, for some of the outer areas the access is often very patchy. Then in all areas there are families who do not have the necessary devices, so are unable to connect to online services or resources even if they wish to. In talking to people ministering in some of the more rural areas I discovered that Pauline Stengs in Cobden is keeping up her connections through telephone calls and practical assistance by shopping for people. While in Kaikoura, Marion McChesney delivered a chocolate based Easter surprise into the letterboxes of all the families that attend the Church's After-School Club. In Golden Bay many of the families live on farms often 45 minutes (or more) away from towns such as Collingwood. To keep connected with these families, as well as the ones based in townships, Lynda Lyes is presently phoning them. However, she has some creative ideas for the future involving possibly having an activity pack delivered by rural mail and storytelling via Zoom. Thank you to everyone throughout the Diocese for the efforts you are making to stay connected to children and their families. Your creativity and commitment is acknowledged and appreciated.

Sue



Ministry

Rev Dr Graham O'Brien, Ministry Education Coordinator

Curating Worship

Over the past 4 weeks life has changed, including how we now view being church. Where once we talked about how to use technology in our worship, now technology is our mode of worship as we gather together in community on screen.

So how do we now construct a worship experience? Kay Lynn Northcutt in her recent piece in Christian Century reminds us that "worship is not a spectator sport. It is not about observation but participation" (www.christiancentury.org/article/first-person/how-i-learned-love-worshiping-video-call). She goes on to say as someone immune-compromised, "how marvellous it was to see their faces". At a time when we rely even more on sight and sound in this more technological way of being church, it is worth reflecting on how to intentionally put all these elements together so that participation and personal connection are maintained. Mark Pierson, in his book *The Art of Curating Worship* (2010) emphasizes the word 'curate', meaning to design and prepare the whole experience – just as an art curator would in preparing an exhibit. This is about "holding together the various elements of the worship event" so that each interrelate and build an experience that connects to the realities and desires of as many of the congregation as possible. Three key questions enable this:

1. Who makes up your worshipping community?
2. How can you help them engage with God in ways that will nurture and sustain them?
3. What do you want the worship event to say?

With technology there is scope for creativity in our worship, as well as a vast online resource of material. But once ideas and resources are gathered, there is also the need to prune down what is utilised, so that the ideas connect to what you want the worship experience to achieve, as well as connecting to the lives of those participating. This is curating worship rather than leading worship as people participate together and connect with God and others online. For those us in leadership this is a challenging new way of being, as we seek to build community for those God has placed in our care. There is also timely reminder that for some, this is how they have been joining worship for a while, so let us not forget them even when we can gather in person once again.

God Bless

Graham O'Brien Ministry Educator

Story of Hope

Rev. Russell Pickersgill-Brown

On my very first day in this Parish, in January 2016, I gathered everyone who did anything in the Parish and asked them three things. Who are you, what do you do here, and what is God doing through what you do? And we went around all 25 or so, and they told me. Mostly with bright eyes and enthusiasm. Then when it came to me I said "I am your new vicar, you all carry an anointing, the God given authority, passion and vision for where you are and what you do. I have heard you all say it, and you mean it. I am here to encourage, resource, pray for you and with you and if you want me involved just ask. You are the ministry missionaries here. Keep it up."

I say this in this article because this empowered team vision is perfect for where we are now. For 4 years I have encouraged and equipped, many who were already fully capable of what they were involved in. A lot of whom are more capable than I at their ministry and that is what Church, Ecclesia, should look like.

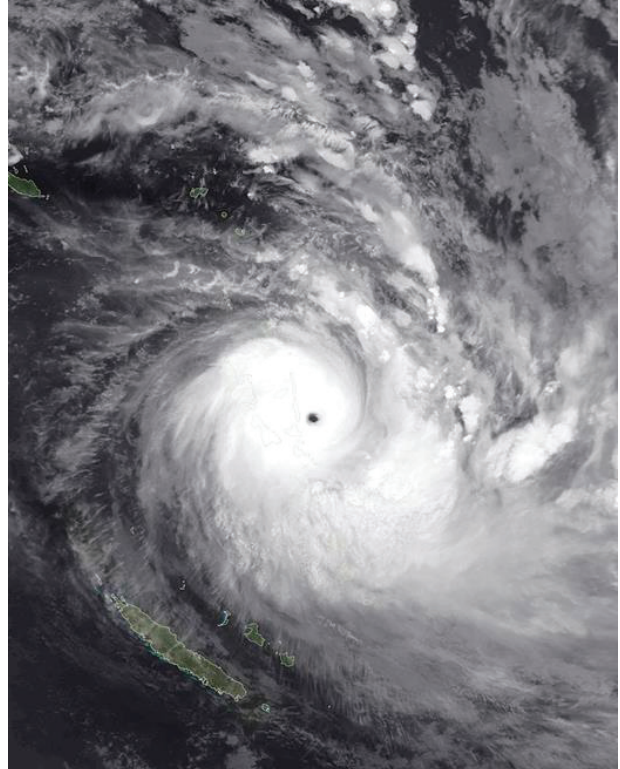
From the initial outset of Covid 19 in mid-March 2020, I was kept informed of how things were in the Parish. I was on sabbatical and fortunately at home. I came back early and that was simply to have my feet on the ground and offer what assistance I could to those already ably serving. We had pastoral care teams in place immediately because...we already had them in place. We had contact with all the young families from Messy Church, Music and Movement and Youth Group because... we were constantly in contact with them prior to this lockdown. We had our aged congregation in regular contact by phone, who were actually the ones most surprised. The '9 o'clockers', as we call them, are receiving more intense pastoral care than before because normally they meet amongst themselves and quietly serve in the parish. Now we were making a point of speaking to them every other day!

All this to say that God undoubtedly prepared us for this current season in a number of ways, and whilst the future is looking a bit uncertain we have an unprecedented opportunity to pause, listen, pray, and discover what God wants to do next. What an amazing opportunity to reset and reach those that we have tried to reach with our previous way of doing things. Our Parish is excited because we are currently reaching more people today than we effectively reached 1 month ago, because we have genuine interest in their well-being not simply an interest in whether they would maybe join us one Sunday soon. I am excited and the Parish is united in our desire to see His name glorified and His kingdom come out of this. I leave you with a final question or two. What will we go back to? And what could it possibly look like if we let it?

EMERGENCY APPEAL: TROPICAL CYCLONE HAROLD and COVID-19

Background

- Tropical Cyclone Harold was the first Category 5 cyclone to hit the South Pacific since TC Gita in 2018 and was the second-strongest tropical cyclone to ever hit Vanuatu (behind TC Pam in 2015).
- The Cyclone has led to 30 deaths (28 in Solomon Islands) and caused catastrophic damage, especially in Vanuatu where it has directly affected 160,000 people and destroyed many houses. The State of Emergency has been extended for a further 30 days.
- In Fiji and Tonga, there has been widespread damage to houses and crops, severe flooding in some areas and localised damage to infrastructure.
- Although there are relatively few confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the Pacific, globally the pandemic is spreading fast. People are anxious and afraid and many people do not have good information about the virus and how to protect themselves from infection. Older people and those with chronic health conditions or who do not have enough to eat are most vulnerable.
- Experts warn a vaccination is 18 months away. In times of crisis, more so than any other time, it is the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised who are at greatest risk so we therefore need to respond quickly.



Anglican Church response to date

- A number of the relief, development and mission agencies around the Anglican Communion have launched, or are about to launch, appeals for COVID-19 including several of our key partners; CWS, Anglican Overseas Aid and Anglican Board of Missions. Several are also launching appeals for Tropical Cyclone Harold
- In Vanuatu, the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) is part of a wider multi-agency based response to TC Harold being led by the Church Agencies Network – Disasters Operations (CAN-DO) and implemented by the Vanuatu Council of Churches (VCC), ADRA and ACOM.

- The response includes projects that support water and sanitation, good hygiene, psycho-social counselling services and community protection. ACOM is well connected to the official response efforts and has considerable experience and expertise in working with other implementing agencies following Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015.
- Supporting affected communities in Vanuatu complements the fund-raising currently underway by AAW in the refurbishment of St Patricks College on Ambae and the work Anglican Missions has been helping to fund in supporting people of Ambae to resettle and re-establish livelihoods following the volcanic eruptions of 2018.
- In Fiji and Tonga while the extent of damage following Cyclone Harold is not as great as the impact in Melanesia, the Diocese of Polynesia is already involved and demonstrating in very practical ways the role that churches play in disaster preparedness and response.
- In relation to COVID-19, the Diocese has particular concerns for sharing safe and healthy messages especially given lockdown's and the challenges that keeping in touch with more isolated rural parishes poses. Funding would extend the Church's ability to communicate with parishes and the availability of pre-positioned family COVID-19 response packs is highly appropriate.

Anglican Missions

- Given the severity of the cyclone, the number of fatalities; the central role the church is already playing in response and recovery efforts (which will take years); the skills and the experience that the Church has already (e.g. TC Pam and Gita response); and the links Anglican Missions has with a number of response agencies, Anglican Missions is launching an emergency appeal for the TC Harold response. Money raised will go toward to the CAN-DO led proposal that ACOM is part of. A full proposal will shortly be posted on the Anglican Missions website.
- Given the spread of COVID-19 and its likely impact on Pacific communities and especially given that the poorest and the most vulnerable will be hit the hardest, Anglican Missions is also launching an emergency appeal for the COVID-19 response. What this will look like is currently being developed. The Diocese of Polynesia is identifying proposed actions and Anglican Missions staff are talking with like-minded agencies to ensure there is no duplication of effort and that we make the best of opportunities to leverage other initiatives. The intention is to work with other agencies to maximise impact.
- Anglican Missions is in close contact touch with the Anglican Alliance, which is ensuring a collaborative and coordinated global Anglican response.

Conclusion

During these uncertain times and as we experience the impact of COVID-19 ourselves in Aotearoa New Zealand, Anglican Missions is talking with partners here and overseas to assess the extent of damage and to assess needs to ensure our response is appropriate, timely and scalable. Partners are already working hard on information campaigns including the distribution of handwashing and hygiene kits to prevent COVID-19's spread and on getting people back on their feet following the Cyclone. Our Appeal seeks your support so that together we can help those who may lack resources to combat this disease or rebuild shattered livelihoods. For information, please check our website <https://angmissions.org.nz/> or contact Michael Hartfield on michael@angmissions.org.nz or 021 913 219.