

## A pastoral update from Dean Ian, 2 April 2020

I am writing on the first-week anniversary of lock-down, grateful for the opportunities to stay in touch with people, including of course Cathedral parishioners. Clergy and laity have been gathering via the Zoom client both with Bishop Andrew on Wednesday evening, and for Morning Prayer Tuesday to Friday. Anyone is welcome to participate in these services. Please email me ([dean@napiercathedral.org.nz](mailto:dean@napiercathedral.org.nz)) if you would like to receive an invitation to participate – you can do this via a smartphone app or on a computer. Most people are finding it easy to use, and of course you can always sign up (free) and use Zoom to stay in touch with friends and family – it's great for gathering a number of people together (<http://zoom.us>)

### PALM SUNDAY

We are planning to use Zoom to have a simple service (about 30 minutes) for Palm Sunday, including music (live from the Tattersalls) readings, prayers and reflection. The Zoom meeting ID for this is 725-409-7945 or this should work: [zoom.us/j/7254097945](https://zoom.us/j/7254097945)

You might like to prepare for the service by making your own palm cross:

<https://youtu.be/oT-0Z6YSJoU> for real-time instructions – why not include others in your “bubble”

or, you can cut some greenery from the garden and arrange it appropriately (perhaps with a candle). The liturgical colour for Palm Sunday is RED, so you could perhaps incorporate a red cloth into your creative arrangement.

There will be a form of service emailed out tomorrow for those who would like to worship at a different time of day, or who can't participate live.

### PASTORAL CARE

Currently Dorothy is contacting leaders of groups associated with the Cathedral to ascertain who is being reached within our networks of pastoral care so that we can ensure that everyone has a contact point with the Cathedral. Updates like this one can be read over the phone to people who don't have an internet connection. If you are concerned about anyone being overlooked, please email Dorothy directly: [dorothy.brooker@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.brooker@gmail.com)

### BEREAVEMENT

You will have heard about the difficult restrictions placed upon funerals at this time. One Cathedral parishioner had a positive experience where their Christchurch-based parent's funeral was enabled by an Anglican priest who helped them set up a live online funeral so that people could participate from everywhere. We hope we don't have to help anyone in this regard, but do share this if it likely to be relevant to your family.

## NAPIER INNER-CITY CHURCHES

The Rev'd Sally Carter has offered some reflection on our Ecumenical efforts for providing worship across our Inner-City Churches, noting that of course we will not be having any public gatherings for Good Friday (& Easter) this year:

“Thank you so much to the Cathedral for hosting our Ash Wednesday service with the fabulous music, meaningful liturgy and just the fact of gathering together in the fullness of our humanity.

Thank you to St Patrick's, Westshore and Trinity for their hospitality and reflection on our theme of 'they showed them unusual kindness'. Special thanks to St Patrick's for their neighbourliness in providing a place for Trinity during their renovations. Several people said of Rev Lynne Frith's commissioning - 'Isn't it great that we are gathering in a Catholic Church, with a Presbyterian preacher for the commissioning of a Methodist Presbyterian.' Truly, we are the Body of Christ.

Our theme, 'and they showed them unusual kindness' has become part of our national vocabulary - maybe even global vocabulary - 'Be Kind'. I would like to focus for a moment on one word in our theme: 'unusual'. These are most unusual times. Many of the usual ways we show kindness are not available to us, so we are invited into unusual spaces - Zoom Rooms, YouTube videos, emails, more phone calls than usual.

Our kindness is unusual in that it involves staying away from people, protecting them - and us - from the spread of COVID 19.

Our kindness is unusual in that many of your clergy and lay leaders will be struggling to find and learn new ways of connecting. Many of them will be struggling to recognise when they have done 'enough'. Your kindness and patience is so appreciated.

Our kindness will need to be unusual in that in the times we most need to gather - at times of birth, death, marriage, even birthdays, our gatherings will be virtual. But I feel sure that when Jesus said 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I with them' he would have included virtual gatherings if he had known about them!

I hope that during this time you will experience, or have already, experienced acts of 'unusual kindness'. Perhaps you would like to share them with this virtual community.

In our prayers, may we be especially aware of those who are not connected through the wonders of technology. Those who have no homes, no phones, no car to reach those 'essential' services. May we be especially aware of those who are separated from loved ones in rest homes or hospitals.

This will be a strange Holy Week. May we find ways of journeying with Jesus to the Cross and, in time, to his astounding resurrection.

Let us pray: This prayer is from the community of Corrymeela -

God of pan–demos, God of all–people,  
how odd that it takes a global disease  
to show us that we are all one:  
one species, one family  
one genomic form,  
one people dependent on you.  
There are some among us  
acutely at risk  
to an invisible, indiscriminate foe.  
We join in prayer for them and us,  
that in our shared vulnerability  
you would cure us of this sickness.  
And the other one,  
the one that divides us,  
so that in healing we might become whole.  
Amen.

With every blessing

Sally”