



The Herald

May 2019

Sure to Rise! **The Bishops' Easter message, April 2019**

+Eleanor writes:

You should have been safe here

Those haunting words which have been spoken out over our nation in these recent weeks keep resounding in my heart. As I have moved between our churches, week by week, and as we have gathered day by day in the deep tradition of our Holy Week, my mind has become stuck on that phrase. You should have been safe here. The grief of my heart for our world at this time is ripe, as is my grief for the people about whom those words were rightly spoken.

Yet I find myself repeating them under my breath to someone else: to Christ. To my friend Jesus those words also seem so painfully real. You should have been safe here. You came to that which was your own, but your own didn't recognise you. All things came into being through you and what came into being was light and life (John 1). You, friend, bringing your light and life, should have been safe here. But you weren't. The turning point of Lazarus, over whom you wept, over whom you held grief with your sisters; his return to life became the turning point of your own death. You should have been safe here. An eye for an eye, a life for a life. But you gave life. You loved. You who are one with the God who is love. You who are one with the source of life. Yet, in response to your gift you were given death. You were given hate.

You knew all those things, and in the agony of your heart you still accepted that, and so you said, “this is my body given for you”.

One physical body was destroyed by fear, by hate, by human power. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains but a seed, but if it dies it produces many seeds (John 12:24). Our lips now confess that we are the body of Christ, we are those many seeds. That you are with us. That we get to proclaim that you are here, that you are risen, that in you nothing can separate us from the love and life of God.

I am so thankful for all of you to responding to the appeal for Mozambique and the Diocese of Niassa. Bags of seeds are being distributed as a gift of tangible love and hope from you to our African brothers and sisters. The Archbishop reflects on the harrowing nature of his visit to the remote parts of my friend Bishop Vicente’s diocese. One phrase of his writing stands out, in the midst of the inhumane conditions of the villages he reflects:

“The key feature everywhere is that we are welcomed – and bid farewell – warmly in song and dance. Even in pain and total loss, the gift that they have not lost, nor are prepared to lose, is their song, dance and their hope.”

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can not overcome it (John 1:5). Come, friends, let us walk with the Light of the World and learn afresh the song of the new creation that is always being sung from his lips. Perhaps this year it could sound a little like one of my favourite childhood songs:

**They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that’ll never never die
I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me –
I am the Lord of the dance said he.**

+Justin writes:

So many times when I have been asked about how we change our world, or how we enliven a declining church, I say the same simple things: extend hospitality in simple, honest and loving ways. Transform your homes, transform your communities, scone after scone!

Different journalists have recently printed the repeated phrase of baking scones and visiting neighbours. In my first Synod charge I said that the church would be totally transformed if every household that was part of our diocese intentionally hosted two meals a week; one for people within the church community and one for people who were not.

I was so heartened to hear of the beautiful expression of hospitality shared by young adults from the Wellington Muslim community; brainstorming with Rosie Fyfe, our Intercultural Enabler, and AYM members, about how to express thanks to the wider community for the love that has been shown to them in the past month. Together they have been having wonderful conversations about baking and serving tea on street corners to passers by as a sign of love, togetherness and thankfulness.

I urge you to take seriously the repeated call that I give to take step after step of simple, honest hospitality to neighbours, friends and strangers.

This Easter season, be light, be generosity, be hope in your streets. Get baking people – and you know that life is sure to rise somewhere and somehow!

The Parish of Pohangina invites you to join us for

TRIVIA NIGHT



Thursday

16th of May...

HOSTED BY ASHHURST R.S.A
Doors open at 7pm. Quiz starts at 7.30pm

EAT DRINK & TEASE YOUR BRAIN

CASH PRIZE

Spot prizes including best dressed team

Teams of 4 or more
\$10 per person, must be 18 and over.
ALL money raised goes to the Hall refurbishment fund

Email elisa_retter@icloud.com to enter your team prior to 1 May.

Dessert Evening

Saturday 6th July

6.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Hall



We are holding an informal get together for all who volunteer on the Parish rosters — to talk about the rosters, share thoughts for improvement, and enjoy dessert together.
(Please bring a dessert to share)

If you aren't on the rosters but would like to join us anyway for dessert, you are most welcome.

Summary of Vestry Meeting 10 April 2019

The following is a brief summary of the topics that were discussed at the last Vestry Meeting:-

- Komako—"5th Sunday Service" - it was discussed whether to reinstate the 5th Sunday service at Komako, as it was still advertised on the St Bartholomews noticeboard, and someone had turned up for service which did not go ahead. Agreed that we would not reinstate this, as we need all hands on deck for the Café Church in Ashhurst on 5th Sunday's, and we are short on available people at present. The noticeboard to be corrected to 2nd and 4th Sunday's only.
- Vestry & Leaders Away Day—to be held Saturday June 22nd—9am to 12pm.
- Cost of Living increase: the cost of living increase (recommendation) for clergy and paid staff of 2% has been received, and all agreed to the increase for paid Parish staff.

Finances for March 2019:

Offerings banked \$8,432

Expenses paid: \$3,950

Surplus of \$4,482

Tithes and Offerings; Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

We give because;

- *It is an act of honour and obedience when we give God the first and best of everything we own. (Proverbs 3:9-10)*
- *It acknowledges that God is our provider. (Philippians 4:19)*
- *It is an opportunity to imitate God's generosity. (Ephesians 5:12)*
- *It maintains that our possessions do not control or define us. (Luke 12:34)*
- *It is one of the ways God involves us in the good work He does throughout the earth. (Philippians 2:13)*

Offertory recording allows parishioners to claim a rebate from IRD after 31 March each year. In April receipts are issued with total giving for each person/family for the previous year. If you would like to be part of this system using envelopes or automatic payments please talk to Helen or Lyn.

Services for May 2019

5th 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
12th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
19th 10.00 am Ashhurst
26th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako

Prayer Breakfasts 2019—8am start

May 4th, Saturday: Barbara & Michael
June, July & August: no breakfast
September 7th, Saturday: Penny & Ric
October 5th, Saturday: Alva
November 2nd, Saturday: Noeline
December 7th, Saturday: Barbara & Michael
February 1st, 2020, Saturday: Penny & Ric

Dates for your Diary

15th May, Wednesday: Vestry Meeting 7.30pm
16th May, Thursday: Trivia Night, 7.00pm, Ashhurst RSA
13th June, Thursday: City Intercessors, 7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene Church
22nd June, Saturday: Vestry Away Day, 9am - 12pm for Vestry and service leaders, St Mary Magdalene Hall
6th July, Saturday: Service Leaders Dessert Evening, 6.30pm, Learning/ Sharing evening for those that "have an active part" in our services.

Prayer Chain for May: Yvonne - 357-9198

House Groups

Monday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm
At either Ric and Penny Foxley's 100 Worcester Street, 3268887
Or Mike and Barbara Russell's 144 Winchester Street 3268547

