

News & for Prayer

- **Another Thy Kingdom Come prayer focus begins tomorrow**—Ascension Day. See page 3 and the parish website home page for details of session times and events.
- **Mai and Robin Sa** remarried in St Anne's on the 30th of April.
- *Indeed marriage is in the air with another wedding planned for June - our third for the year!*
- **Our daily 8am (Tues-Fri) Prayer Time in Whare Karakia**—49A Mungavin—will resume on **Tuesday 7 June**. The 'Pray As You Go' audio meditation kicks off each session with informal prayer together before we conclude by reading from the NZ Anglican Prayer Book—a service or devotion for the day. **Time: 30-40mins.**
- **Please remember the sick especially Paul and Sala; also those with the Omicron virus and all who may benefit from our loving concern and prayer.**
- **St Anne's driveway repairs** are scheduled for 10am Monday 6th June. Working Bee help requested. Call Maurice on 027 688 4973.

Entry to all Group gatherings is now open. Please be careful to monitor your health. We have RAT test kits available free.

St Anne's Pantry May News

- We continue to break delivery records with 221 food parcel deliveries being made during March;
- The high demand in March combined with supply chain and staffing challenges at Kiwi Community Assistance, meant that we spent nearly \$10,000 purchasing supplies;
- In fact for the four months to the ending 30 April we spent \$31,000 which was wonderfully offset by donations of \$20,000;
- The financial shortfall above has been offset by \$30,000 in grants during May—we serve and worship a very generous God;
- Fiona, our Administrator, has quickly become a vital part of our operational team. She works in the Pantry on Tuesday and Friday 9am-1pm. She is maintaining our sizable database, overseeing requests, receiving calls, monitoring finances, filling gaps as needed with packing and delivery and, from 1 April, took responsibility for receiving your donations and sending tax receipts.
- During May we have benefited from much community generosity through the New World Porirua Family to Family appeal.
- We have discovered that one of our volunteers—Marty Pilott—is an accomplished actor who performed recently as Jimmy Jack Cassie in 'Translations'.



Ascension

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Pentecost



PARISH NEWS

May 25th 2022

The 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative begins again tomorrow—Ascension Day. Christians traditionally have kept these ten days from Ascension to Pentecost as a time of prayer, especially prayer for Christian unity. While this remains a focus, this season has broadened to be a time when we are encouraged to grow in our praying with an expectation that our prayers will make a difference and that we and others will observe that difference.

Last Saturday three of us attended the Diocesan training day at Marsden Collegiate, Karori. Dawn and I attended the last session in the beautiful chapel there. We were discussing and practising prophetic praying with some leaders in the diocese who are teaching those who will learn how to pray with another sharing words, impressions, encouragements in the context of prayer. After just a little tuition our little group of four began praying for one another—a priest, a diocesan administrator, one seeking ordination and a church warden; two men and two women. In twenty minutes we had prayed for one another and lifted one another up as our discerning prayer hit the mark and each of us had gained a profound sense that Jesus had been in our midst.

This Sunday (after Ascension) we will read in the Gospel, "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:21 Jesus was praying for us who believe that our faithful prayer will be effective... that 'the world may believe.'

- Terry

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION REFLECTION

SENTENCE

The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

Psalm 97:6

PRAYER

Eternal God, the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son with great triumph to be Lord of all;

leave us not comfortless but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us that we may labour for the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Amen

John 17:20-26

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

PRAYING FOR THE COMFORTER TO COME

The church year begins with the season of Advent, which means that for nearly the first half of the church calendar we anticipate and celebrate the coming of Christ and his life, ministry, death, and resurrection here on earth. Although we affirm in the creeds that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Eastertide direct our focus to Immanuel, Christ with us, Jesus living amongst us on earth.

But today we remember Christ's ascension, next week we celebrate Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit, and then we enter the second half of the church year: ordinary time.

Ordinary time takes its name from the ordinal numbers that mark the weeks after Pen-

tecost — the first Sunday after Pentecost, the second Sunday, etc. — but it's also an ordinary season, a season for growing and working and living in this in-between space separating the resurrection and the return of Christ.

This rhythm of the church year balances waiting, feasting and simply living, reflecting the tension of Christianity. We celebrate the coming of Jesus and we anticipate his return, but in the midst of that we also live and work in this world now, existing in the already and not-yet kingdom of heaven.

As we live in this tension, however, the Ascension can feel like loss.

Surely it must have felt like loss to Jesus' companions, who had seen Jesus leave them once before; no wonder that they anticipated his second coming within their lifetimes. It can also feel like loss to us today, two millennia later, like an empty house after the guests have gone or a return to daily life after the excitement of travel. The waiting and the celebrating are over, leaving a gap in our lives.

Today's collect reminds us, though, that we are not left alone or left comfortless.

Jesus has been exalted to heaven, but as he promised his disciples he is sending the Holy Spirit. And through the work of the Holy Spirit, we have the hope that one day we, too, will be exalted to be with Jesus forever.

<https://tinyurl.com/SARAH-LINDSAY>

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Fiona Bell—027 944 4996 (Tues & Fri 9-1)

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THY KINGDOM COME

Programme

26 May—5 June

Te Whare—49A Mungavin Ave., Ranui

Thu 26 & Fri 27—Prayer 2pm

St Anne's—2 Arawhata St., Ranui

Sun 29—Communion Service 10am

Te Whare

Sun 29—Healing Prayer Service 7pm

Tue 31-Fri 3—Prayer Daily 2pm

St Anne's

Sun 5—Pentecost Communion 10am

All sessions one hour

For more detail visit:

<https://www.poriruaanglican.nz>