

Greymouth & Kumara Anglican Parish
Lockdown Newsletter 7
9/10 May 2020 – Alert Level 3 moving to Level 2

MARGE WRITES

First of all thank you to everyone who wished me well on my birthday last week. I had a very special couple of days.

I held off finalising and sending this newsletter until after the government's announcement on the 11th so that our information would be accurate and up to date.

So...

The government's decision to enter into Level 2 in a staggered manner (beginning with no gatherings over 10 people) means that our church buildings will remain closed and our church services will not be held until the numbers allowed match our numbers of regular attendees. For the time being both of our sites—Greymouth and Kumara will remain closed. I must also add that the bishops are working on a unified approach so that all Anglican churches are on the same page for re-opening and we await that information.

The government will review the numbers allowed to gather on Monday, 25th May and we will see if we can then be able to physically gather again.

In the meantime, a few of us will begin to prepare the buildings for re-entry (e.g. cleaning) and putting into place the necessary protocols and safety guards required for gathering at Level 2.

Therefore,

- Weekend services will be via ZOOM for at least 16/17 May and 23/24 May
- I would ask that no home groups meet over the next two weeks even if your home group has less than 10 members. There are a number of protocols to be put in place that are being formalised as I write and every host will need time to prepare.
- The Church buildings will remain closed during these two weeks.
- The Parish Office will remain closed for this week. We hope to open the office in a limited fashion next week and will inform you of hours in next week's newsletter.
- Marge, Robin and Nicky will continue to work from home this week and will update you if anything changes next week.
- Care Cluster Leaders will continue to contact their members via phone or other means over the next two weeks
- All rosters (e.g. services, church cleaning, lawn mowing, etc.) remain on hold

NEXT WEEKEND'S SERVICES

Our services this next weekend (16/17 May) will again be via ZOOM—6pm Saturday and 11am Sunday. A link will be sent out by email later this week. Robin will be our preacher. To prepare for this coming weekend, you may like to ponder the theme and readings ahead of time--

Our Theme for this coming weekend is— Jesus in the Old Testament

Our Readings for this coming weekend are— Deuteronomy 27:1-10; Luke 24:13-27

UNIQUE STUDY EXPERIENCE: GOING DEEP WITH REVELATION

Andrew Burgess, Dean of Bishopdale Theological College in Nelson, is hosting a weekly online teaching event for Nelson Diocese and all interested folk.

Last week's teaching was superb and it will continue this Wednesday at 7pm via ZOOM.

Andrew ("Burge") is doing a 'big picture' overview of the book of Revelation – with a particular focus on the character of living in and for the kingdom of God in a world that is very different to that. Jesus calls His Church to 'overcome' (or 'conquer') and we will take a broad look at what that looks like in Revelation. We won't be doing any predictions of when exactly Jesus will return, or looking at different readings around the 'rapture', for example – we will just be focusing on some key insights in Revelation about living faithfully in this time between Jesus' ascension and His return.

Marge will send out a link to last week's teaching if you missed it and want to catch up. The teaching was about 45 minutes. Marge will also send the ZOOM link for this week's teaching if you want to join in live.

THANK YOU'S

Again, we thank everyone who is helping and encouraging others during this time especially our Care Cluster Leaders. Our feedback from the care clusters leaders is very encouraging. Also, thank you to Diana Fensom for preaching last weekend, to Eric Fensom for reading and to Trevor Morrison and Russell and Jane Nimmo for leading intercessions.

TESTIMONY

Sometimes we think we shouldn't bother God with the "little" things in our lives, but actually He cares about every detail. He loves it when His children talk to Him about anything and everything. Joanna Lorimer sent in a testimony that illustrates this.

Sometimes God answers prayers quickly. Our lawn mowing service had fallen through during lockdown. Our lawns were so overgrown our little dog wasn't keen to navigate through the jungle. One morning this week I was taking Jess for a walk. As I headed down the drive I said to the Lord, "Our lawns are desperately in need of mowing. I give this to you Lord. Please make provision for us. And it would be good if the lawns could be mown today, while the sun is shining." Five minutes down the road I saw a man mowing a lawn. I waved out to him and he stopped for a chat. He told me he had two lawns to do, then he would come do ours. He turned up after lunch and we are so grateful to have tidy lawns again. Thank you God for such a speedy answer to prayer!!!

Remember Jesus words, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-13).

CONTACT DETAILS FOR MARGE & ROBIN

Landline phone: 03 768 7508

Marge's cell: 021 0233 2189

Robin's cell: 021 0228 7926

emails: office@greymouthanglican.co.nz;

margetefft@xtra.co.nz;

robin@greymouthanglican.co.nz