

20 May 2020

Number 8

# Waikato-Waiariki on Wednesdays

*Manaakitia ā tātou  
tāngata.*

*Care for our people.*

*“E fa’amaoni le Atua, na  
te le tu’uina atu outou  
ile tofotofoga e sili ise  
mea ua outou lavatia”*

*God is faithful; he will  
not let you be tempted  
beyond what you can  
bear”*

*(1 Corinthians 10.13)*

Kia ora e te whānau! New Zealand is now in its first week at Alert Level 2 and we are getting out and about again. In some places pastoral visiting is resuming. Some of our churches are opening their buildings again for small hire groups and meetings. Leadership teams are working out how to make our churches safe spaces. There’s a lot to think about and do. Let’s take our time and get it right.

## Covid 19 Safety Plan

If you are reopening your building, an essential step is the preparation of a Covid 19 Safety Plan. This will set out the steps you’re taking to keep people safe as well as the expectations you have of groups using your facilities. The Matamata Union Parish has put together a plan which it is happy to share. Contact Susan or Bob Franklyn for a copy.

Any plan should be prepared alongside the Methodist Church of New Zealand’s most recent Pandemic Plan ([www.methodist.org.nz](http://www.methodist.org.nz)).

## Worship

Over the last week there has been lots of debate about whether the ten person limit on gatherings is discriminating against religious communities. We don’t believe that it is. Many of our congregations have vulnerable members who need our care.

As one writer recently said, “There are some real injustices harming our people and facing our nation, being asked to gather in groups of ten is not one of them .... Sunday morning services shouldn’t be our defining feature.”

## Funerals

At Alert Level 2 funeral directors can now seek approval to allow up to fifty people to attend a funeral. The Ministry of Health must be satisfied

that a range of public health measures can consistently be met (physical distancing, hand hygiene, no food or drink).

If you are considering having a funeral in the church there needs to be very clear communication with funeral directors about expectations. You can say no to a request to use the church if you think that you are not able to comply with the necessary health measures.

### Out and about

It's important to be aware that people will feel a range of emotions at the thought of leaving their bubbles. Some will be excited, others cautious; some will feel confident, others may feel nervous. Many people are tired. Be sensitive to those in your communities and give them the time they need to readjust.

### Prayers

“We gather together though apart, confident that God is present with each and every one of us,

We gather together though apart, trusting the Holy Spirit to knit our hearts together as one.”

(Peg Roy)

5 truths to hold in your bones

1. you are loved
2. you can do hard things
3. you are not alone
4. we need each other
5. follow joy

- Rev. Anna Blaedel



### Contact details

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