

# KNOX PARISH

Newsletter August 2024

## Litany

Holy God, this day we pause, and we reflect

**We are deeply saddened at what has occurred in the life of our nation and our national church**

Saddened and distressed that vulnerable people have been hurt

**Hurt in situations and places where they should have been safe**

We think of Jesus who came so that all may have fullness of life

**And acknowledge that (instead) in our church some have been denied that**

We think of the courage it would have taken for people to tell their stories

**And the pain and distress that would be there in the telling, and the hearing**

As a church we grieve for the wounds people have to bear

**And regret that this has happened within our church communities**

Through time and space the church has failed to protect vulnerable people, and given a safe haven to those in power

**And that weighs heavily on us all here and now**

Our human condition is frail and has its shadow side

**And often we find that hard to admit to ourselves and hard to bear in others**

God what are we to do?

**We call out to you in sincere humility and deep need**

*(Pause in silence....)*

We give thanks that this darkness can be brought to the light of Christ

## Tena koutou katoa

Last Wednesday I sat and watched as Parliament received the report from the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care.

There were speeches by the Prime Minister and various politicians. It was emotional and painful. The report is the culmination of six years' work, and it contains harrowing stories of abuse in state and faith-based organisations, including the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Some background on our Church's involvement with the Commission. Back when the then Labour Government was considering a Royal Commission, the Presbyterian Church, via the Council of Assembly, wrote and commented on the first draft Terms of Reference and said what was missing was faith-based entities. We said it should be included and if it was, we would willingly take part.

We noted to the Commission how entities such as Presbyterian schools have their own boards and governance structures, and it is the same for each of the seven regions of Presbyterian Support and for Support NZ. We encouraged the Commission to engage with each on their own merit.

We have responded to various Notices to Produce from the Commission; volunteers from congregations searched decades of material from church meetings and reports; we provided records and other information as requested. Our staff at the Presbyterian Research Centre played a great role in assisting in this process.

We were called to be present at a Hearing of the Commission where we issued an apology in our opening comments and responded to questions from the Commission. We set up a process so that those wanting to contact us about Historic Abuse matters could do so and we could attend to those. We made this known.

We have engaged with the Crown Response Unit following the Royal Commission Interim Report.

The recently released Final Report includes recommendations, and these require response. Among these the Commission calls for leaders of the different

**And in that light we pray that there may be healing and justice**

In the light we pray that we can all learn from the mistakes of the past

**And ensure that the present and future is guided by your Holy Spirit**

So that all may feel safe and protected

**That integrity, justice and honesty be hallmarks of our church**

We pray that we can hold the tension of the reality of life and the hope that comes in Christ

**And that in all things you are at work - in the brokenness, in the pain, in the healing**

Gracious God, enfold your broken church in your loving embrace

**And enable us to be the people that you call us to be**



This Christian family from Auckland chose a church setting to enjoy their lunch today.

They said "Thankyou"

denominations to make a public apology to survivors and this is to be done in consultation with survivor groups regarding how and when it will happen. I will be making that apology on behalf of our Church.

As people of the PCANZ and as Christians we feel the tremendous weight of the suffering of survivors of abuse; we feel the terrible shame that abuse happened in the church. The church should be a place where people can feel safe and be given dignity and worth - the way in which Jesus gave dignity and worth to all. A place which helps to instill a sense of hope in people's lives. This has not always been the case and we deeply regret that people have suffered and continue to suffer due to the actions of people and processes of our denomination. There has been physical, sexual and spiritual abuse and many are, understandably, left with a view of God and of Christianity that is very negative. This deeply saddens me.

At this time in the life of our Church I offer a responsive litany, below, that I've written that you may wish to use in a church service, as we continue to absorb the reality of the report and process it as a denomination, and as individuals. Let us also continue to hold in our prayers those who have been so badly impacted by actions from within our denomination, also the members of the Commission, government agencies and those who take this forward.

*'Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice'.*

[Psalm 130: 1]

In Christ

Rose

**Right Rev Rose Luxford**

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New

[Zealandmoderator@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:Zealandmoderator@presbyterian.org.nz)

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Greetings

Sorry this Newsletter is a little later, I was in Fiji when it should have been sent out.

As the end of the Church Financial Year ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and our Church Financial Report has been completed it is time to arrange for our 2023/24 AGM.

So, I am calling for yearly reports from the leaders of all church groups please. Check with me if you are not sure if you need to write a report.

The AGM hopefully will be at the end of September. I will confirm this at a later date.

Reports need to be in by the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept at the latest.

## August Services

04 Rev. Clive Thomson  
11 Rev. Joe Beattie - Communion  
18 Brian Weightman  
25 Helen Little  
'Soup and bun' lunch after the service

## August Duties

### Morning Tea Roster

04 Bev & Rae Seales  
11 Joe & Frances Beattie  
18 Vicki Smith & Fatima Lock  
25 Glenys & Rhonda Grey

### Door Duty Roster

04 & 11 John & Dorothy Brownlie  
18 & 25 John & Bev Reid


### Church Cleaning

04 Bev & Rae Seales  
18 Jackie Cantley


### Flower Roster

04 & 11 Clare Walters  
18 & 25 Lorriane Candy

## CONTACTS

 Church office 889 7997


Please leave a message.

 [admin@knoxmorrinsville.org.nz](mailto:admin@knoxmorrinsville.org.nz)

### Parish Clerk

Glenys Middlemiss

 mob 027 453 3956

 Tuesday Home Group

Jennifer Bills 889 4199

### Duty Elder

Glenys Middlemiss

## NOTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Session** meets on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August @ 3pm at Jennifer's home.

### Session News

Session would still like to encourage members of our congregation to give a short testimony during a service if God has inspired you to do so. Please see one of the elders to arrange this.

**Board of Managers** meets on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August @7pm. Meeting at Martins place.

### Board of Managers News

The new paint job of the church is an ongoing project and so are the carpark lines.

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### Mission Group News

We have now found someone to give the Prayer points ago for a trial run.

### Bible Study Group

Mets at Jennifer's place on Tuesday mornings 10:15am. No meeting during the school holidays.

### Knox Kafe

This is held each fourth Thursday of the month at 10am in the church foyer. Please think about who of your friends, family or neighbours you would like to invite for a cuppa.

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### Everybody Shop

If you would like to be added to this roster, please phone Frances 07 888 7177

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### Prayer Chain

We have an e-mail prayer chain outreach for intercessory prayer.

If you would like to have a prayer included, please contact Jackie Cantley, via email [jacall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jacall@xtra.co.nz), Please include "prayer request" in the subject line. If the prayer is urgent, please indicate "Urgent prayer request". Or ring me on 027 227 5012. If I am

## Finances

If you would like to go on the envelope system for offerings, please contact Glenys. She will give you a number and you can use that for online giving, or envelopes for this purpose.

You are welcome to make online payments.

### General Account

01-0367-0007970-00 (use this for normal church offerings)

### Mission Account

01-0367-0007970-01 (use this for mission giving)

unavailable to answer the call please send a text outlining prayer request, & your contact name & number'.

You may also like to become an e-mail intercessor, if so, please contact our Minister, Jackie.

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## PARISH FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxMorrinsville/>

Website:

<http://www.knoxmorrinsville.org.nz/index.htm?d=50217>