

## SPECIAL NOTICE 23 Mar 2020

- To all associated with the Anglican Churches in Bombay-Pokeno (this notice overrides all other recent communications from us about the Covid-19 response).

Kia ora and greetings to you all,

### **COVID-19 VIRUS RESPONSE**

As most of you will be aware the NZ Government has enacted a strict regime on the personal conduct of all New Zealanders in order to control and overcome the incursion of the Covid-19 virus.

For us in our Church community this means we have to close down all our Church services and other events and gatherings – and we have! There will be no meetings or gatherings in our Churches or other venues for the foreseeable future. The Government has ordered a Level 4 state of response for four weeks from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – that gives us some sense of timing, however, any changes after four weeks will depend entirely on the progress we have made in repelling the virus threat. And so – all our gatherings are OFF until further notice at an unknown time in the future.

### **Purpose and Practice**

The whole purpose of the Government's action is to take all new Zealanders out of the way, out of the range and spread of the Covid-19 virus and to do that by us all staying away from each other and by practicing some basic and sensible health and hygiene procedures.

Details of what is required from us are available through frequent Government announcements and advertisements, through the Government Website [Covid-19.govt.nz](https://www.covid-19.govt.nz) and through some of the reliable public media (Radio New Zealand is broadcasting frequent and reliable coverage and notification 24 hours a day).

### **Coping with Change**

The actions required from us will mean changed patterns of life for us and an extended level of isolation for many of us. This will take us a little time to get adapted to and may generate uncertainty or anxiety for some. Please do not hesitate to contact us (contact details below) for support and assistance. Because of our own need to remain isolated our ability to travel or deliver direct assistance is limited – however, we can listen, we can respond, we can offer a “good yarn” and offer focussed prayer – please get in touch.

## **Expressing our Faith**

With our church services not available to us we will explore and develop other ways of expressing our faith over these weeks.

We will continue to use email and telephone notifications and the weekly Tidings will be adapted to provide some basic resources for worship, prayer and reflection at home.

Bruce Owen has developed a Facebook group to engage people in Bombay-Pokeno. The group is called the Bombay-Pokeno Anglican Churches. Do a search under "Explore" and then "Groups". You will be invited to short cut which means that the group will be in the short cut list on the left of the screen. Click on our group to get direct access. As ours is a private group you will need "approval" to join. We will process that promptly. The purpose of the group is to connect, to share and to support.

Bruce and I will seek to develop some further electronic channels for us to keep in touch and even get together on-line for some worship opportunities.

## **In the Meantime**

In the meantime – let us pray..... (use this or your own prayer often in the days ahead)

*Loving God, our creator and constant healer; at this time of the Covid-19 virus epidemic we pray for your presence with us and your grace for the care and protection of ourselves, our families and loved ones, our communities and all the people of our land. We pray for your healing and comforting touch for all who become ill with the virus and your care and support for those for whom daily life becomes challenging and difficult. We pray for our leaders in Government and community and all workers in the health, emergency, social and essential services. We pray for a deepening awareness of your Son Jesus Christ present with us and with all who suffer, Jesus walking this uncertain journey with us. And we pray for a swift recovery and restoration of health, tranquillity and economic resilience in our land. This we pray through Jesus Christ alive among us, and your Holy Spirit of love active among us day by day. Amen.*

Every Blessing, Andrew Beyer

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