

Vicar's letter to the parish 17 May 2020

Hi Folks

Please find attached a sermon for tomorrow.
Here is the morning tea/coffee invite.
John Hughes is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Morning Tea/Coffee

Time: May 17, 2020 11:00 AM Auckland, Wellington

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/99288403843>

Meeting ID: 992 8840 3843

Level 2

There has been a bit in the news about some of the inconsistencies around what is and isn't allowed at Level 2.

For example strip clubs and bars can open but churches cannot. Perhaps this is an indication of what our society values!

The sense of community and family in church service gatherings does mean that the instinct to hug is strong. However it is likely to be for a short time only so lets be gracious and patient.

Level 1 will come. Some church leaders have chosen to defy the government regulations. There are occasions when it is not only right but essential that churches stand up to the ruling authorities but I don't think this is the wisest hill to take a stand on.

Thy Kingdom Come 21 May (Ascension Day) – 31 May (Pentecost Sunday)

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

I have signed us up as a parish to be part of this – so we are one of those many lights on the world map on the web page. I encourage you to take part.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement (initiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury) that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. Whilst an astonishing 92% of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and 40% of those taking part in 2019 did so for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Blessings

John