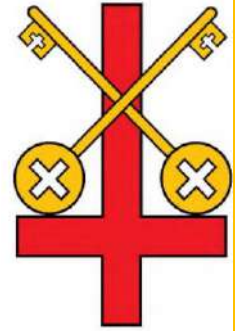


# Welcome

To the Anglican Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst  
The Year of  
Integration, Restoration and Education

**St Peter's  
&  
St Luke's**

**12 April 2020  
Easter Sunday**



It certainly is a different Easter this year. Who would have thought I'd be writing to you from Lockdown! I miss seeing all your smiling faces and the handshakes and giving communion and... the list goes on. And yet I know that one day we'll gather again soon. The good news is that not even COVID 19 can stop the proclamation that Christ has risen from death.

Beginning here in New Zealand and then spreading throughout the world, onto every island and continent the good news that God's love has conquered death, will be told a thousand ways across all manner of internetness. But even if it wasn't Easter holds out an invitation to you, to open your heart to the presence of the risen Christ in our world.

Easter invites us to love again. It invites us to hope again. It invites us to trust again. It is simply the good news that nothing can destroy God's love.

It might be a strange Easter but we and our world need the message of Easter more than ever.

Rosemary and I pray that God may bless you with all hope this Easter.

See you soon!



*~Nick*

Web address to watch Sunday's service:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaV6CL18TXIVfhsobuKDFRw>

## St Peter's & St Luke's Churches

10:00am

**Readings:** Acts 10.34-43  
Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3.1-4  
John 20.1-9



### Sentence

He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. (Matthew 28.6a)

### Collect

Let us pray to greet our Risen Christ:

Alleluia, faithful God  
on this day  
you raised Jesus from the dead,  
and calmed our greatest fear.  
Help us to celebrate with joy,  
that in greeting the risen Saviour,  
we may be filled with the hope of resurrected life,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### Versicle and Response for Intercessions

God of grace,

**You hear our prayer.**

### Next Sunday's Reading

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1.3-9

John 20.1-9

### Pastoral Care / Funeral / Weddings

Unfortunately the Health Department has told clergy that we are not able to visit or take funerals or weddings at this time. We could very easily become carriers of the Virus. We can of course pray for you over the phone, have a memorial service at later date, and you can ask your sweetheart to hold off a bit longer!



### A Prayer for Hard Times

Heavenly Father, we come to you knowing that we are coming to a God of mercy and a God who loves us. We pray, heavenly Father, for New Zealand. We pray for our leaders, Jacinda and her advisers – that you will grant them wisdom as they make decisions that guide us as a nation.

We pray for our loved ones and the various communities in which we exist. We pray for those who are working on the front line. We ask Lord that, you will guide us through these challenging times, and in the way that only you can, that you will cause many things that will before our good to come out of what is a bad situation.

We pray for those who have caught the virus, Father; that you will step in.

We believe in a God who heals. We pray, Lord, that as Aotearoa New Zealand, you will give us the grace to come together, stand together with each other and that acts of kindness will multiply up and down the length and breadth of this land. We pray Almighty God because we do believe in a miraculous God; in a God who can do the impossible – that this virus will stop, that its spread will be stemmed and reversed.

We ask this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(Adapted from a prayer by Agu Irukwu, from UKs Churches Together and published in Anglican e-Life 01 Apr 2020)*

\*Pray for the sick, especially Elizabeth, Fiona, Helen, Leni, Wendy, and others on our minds.



\*Pray for our Vicar and Vestry as they discern processes and make decisions so that we can continue to do God's work and serve His people.

*Truly He is Risen*

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