



# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AUCKLAND

## Newsletter & Programme

### TRINITY – PASSIONTIDE – EASTER - ASCENSION March - May 2017

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Franziska Hesse 525 6944

**Active Retired Priest**

Kevin Coffey 816 9272

**Chaplain**

Andrea Tomanek 579 1508

**Our Web Site**

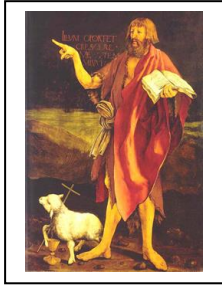
[www.thechristiancommunity.net](http://www.thechristiancommunity.net)

**Priests away from Auckland:**

Hartmut, 6/06 - 10/07 Germany  
and Manila, 20 - 24/07 Hawkes  
Bay, 3 - 6/08 Christchurch, 1 -  
3/09 Christchurch.

Andrea, 8/07 - 31/07 annual  
leave in Germany

Dear Members and Friends of our New Zealand Communities



With Whitsun we celebrate a three day festival that marks the beginning of the second half of our journey through the year. We set out on this journey with Advent and the decision of God to become human. This is reflected in the first three festivals of the Christian year. Advent is the time of pregnancy or preparation: Christ is drawing near. Christmas is all about giving birth and with Epiphany we celebrate the incarnation of the spirit into the human being.

With the next trinity of festivals, which are Passiontide, Easter and Ascension, we witness how Christ brings the creation of the human being to its fulfillment. Transforming our human suffering and dying, He realizes our highest potential by uniting heaven with earth (Ascension).

Fifty days after Easter we celebrate Whitsun or Pentecost. From now on our focus is no longer on Christ alone. We are now asking ourselves how we want to respond to all that He has done for us. With Whitsun we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to each one of us who seek to overcome their isolation by forming Christian communities. John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ and poses the question how any one of us may strive to do the same. And Michael wants to inspire us to deeds beyond self-interest for the development of humanity and earth. In this second half of the year we can ask ourselves whether we want to open ourselves for the healing inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Are we willing to commit to making the serious effort of working upon our own development so that we may be able to respond to the needs of the world? Do we want to help the heavens by offering our heart and hands to form living and caring communities? Do we want to stay connected with the dead, while seeking Michael's guiding inspiration for our deeds? In our Christian Community we are striving for all of this and more. Please do not hesitate to be part of this most exhilarating journey.

By the time that you are reading this newsletter you will have received the tax receipt for your donations of the last year. We would like to thank you all who are supporting our work with your monthly contributions. In our Auckland community we are especially grateful for the encouraging response to our appeal letter. Some friends have increased their regular contributions, while thirteen have started with a new automatic payment. With only a few more contributors over the coming year, we can now be hopeful to meet our commitments without too much stress. Many thanks for your trust and support.

In July we will welcome a special guest from America. Bastiaan Baan is the leader of our priest seminary in Spring Valley and he and his wife are offering

their holidays to visit us in New Zealand. Bastiaan has written quite a few very interesting, readable books; he is an outstanding speaker and he will offer three workshops to us which you can read more about in the flier. Please invite your friends or anyone who may be interested.

On 13<sup>th</sup> of August we will have to say farewell to Franziska Hesse. She arrived in December 2015 when help was needed most urgently, though she had been retired. 75 years young she will now return to the USA to be closer to her children and grandchildren as well as to many friends in the communities where she has worked for so many years before. We are most grateful for her most generous, inspiring, warm hearted support.

With the very best wishes to you for the coming months,

Hartmut Borries, Andrea Tomanek and Franziska Hesse

## NEWS FROM THE REGION...

### CHRISTCHURCH

Several of us were at the family camp in January at Mangatepopo. In February we had a visit from Hartmut and, among other activities, we had our AGM, which was well attended. It seems that our finances are in good shape and we will for the foreseeable future be able to maintain our current level of contributions to the National fund.

Easter was an especially rich time for us as we had William and Alexandra with us, and William offered to lead a devotional gathering on most of the evenings of Holy week, and through Easter. We also enjoyed a Silent Meal together on Maundy Thursday.

On Easter Sunday we gathered before dawn and walked to a spring, where we collected water and greeted the sunrise with singing. Then there was an Easter egg hunt in the forest for the children, and afterwards we returned to Hohepa for a breakfast of special Easter treats.

We continue to have our gospel study meetings on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month (the 3rd Sunday is in town and the 2nd in the country.) Paddy Gilgenberg

### **The Future of our Earth, Conference with Bastiaan Baan**

August 4-5, Christchurch

#### **Friday**

6:00 PM potluck supper

7:30 PM Talk: *The Phenomena of our Present Time*

#### **Saturday**

10:00 AM The Act of Consecration of Man

11:30 AM Talk: *What do Mythologies tell about the Future of our Earth?*

Lunch

2:30 PM Talk: *What does Anthroposophy Say? about the Future of our Earth?*

4:00 PM Talk: *What does the Apocalypse Tell about the Future of our Earth?*

Dinner

7:00 PM Talk & Conversation: *What can I do?*

#### **Sunday**

No conference events on Sunday but regular Sunday services

#### **To register and for information please contact:**

Istvan Martinka Phone: 03 337 19 16 or

022 617 09 06 Email: [martinisti@gmail.com](mailto:martinisti@gmail.com)

### **HAWKES BAY**

#### **Lord of the Elements, Conference with Bastiaan Baan**

July 21 – 23, Hastings

#### **Friday**

6:00 PM potluck supper

7:30 PM Talk: *From Christianity to Nature: Bridging the gap*

#### **Saturday**

10:00 AM The Act of Consecration of Man

11:30 AM Talk: *From Christianity to Nature: Bridging the gap*

Lunch

2:30 PM A new Way to Observe Plants

4:00 PM Workshop: Singing  
Dinner  
7:00 PM Talk: *The Elements at the Altar and the "Quinta Essentia"*

### Sunday

9:00 AM Children's story and service  
10:00 AM The Act of Consecration of Man  
11:30 AM Talk: *The Hidden Presence of Christ in Nature*

#### To register and for information please contact:

Sandra Simpson Phone: 06 857 8755

Email: [sandsimp@gmail.com](mailto:sandsimp@gmail.com)

John Graham phone: 0204 011 5243

Email: [jomgram@gmail.com](mailto:jomgram@gmail.com)

### WELLINGTON

Since the last newsletter, the Wellington community has been visited twice and both times for a full weekend of activities which has been very much appreciated. The last weekend in April Hartmut came for the confirmation of Aiko Chun and Meret Kutsch. Attached is a photo of the two lovely girls cutting the confirmation cake out on our deck on a beautiful sunny Wellington day ( of course) .



Hartmut delivered some inspiring talks and we were very happy to have our community gather around. Then this weekend just gone, we have enjoyed the visit of Darryl Coonan from "across the ditch", for a mini version of the

retreat we had originally planned. The Friday evening talk drew 20 people and the Saturday and Sunday services and talks also had a good attendance. It was great to see Darryl again and hear his thoughtful contributions. Pictured are some of us around the altar (inside this time as



after all, it is Winter). The weekend also brought visitors from Christchurch and Hawkes Bay who were very welcome. A small gospel study group continues in

Petone each week but otherwise all our activities revolve around the priests visits.

Catherine Hayes

### AUCKLAND

#### Ways into Christian Meditation, Conference with Bastiaan Baan

July 28-30, Auckland

#### Friday

6:00 PM potluck supper

7:30 PM Talk and Basic Exercises: *Inner Quiet*

#### Saturday

10:00 AM The Act of Consecration of Man

11:30 AM Talk and Exercises: *Concentration, Contemplation, Meditation*

Lunch

2:30 PM Talk and Exercises: *Word and Image Meditation*

4:00 PM Talk and Exercises: *Meditative Elements in the Gospel of John*

Dinner

7:00 PM Talk: *The Prologue of John in Meditation*

#### Sunday

9:00 AM Children's story and service

10:00 AM The Act of Consecration of Man

11:30 AM Talk: *"I AM" in Meditation*

#### To register and for information please contact:

Franziska Hesse

Phone: 09 525-6944

Email: [franziskahesse@gmail.com](mailto:franziskahesse@gmail.com)

### ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION ON SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY

Like last year I will show how I prune the different types of roses and then we will work together to do the job.

There are Hybrid Tea Roses, Floribundas, Climbers and our big rambling climber, New Dawn, which flowers right through November.

Ron Cashin

## ST JOHN'S FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE

St John's tide begins on the 24<sup>th</sup> June which is the day on which we remember the birth of John the Baptist, six months before the birth of Jesus. For us this is a mid-winter festival. This year St John's day is on a Saturday and because of that we thought it would be a good idea to celebrate this special day with a festival and a fire.

We will meet on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of June at 6pm. You can look forward to singing, story telling, music, a fire, roasted marshmallows and more. For those of you who dare there will be the opportunity to jump over set fire. If you want to bring your lanterns you are welcome to do so. The evening will end with a potluck dinner followed by a Close of Day Service.

It would be great to see many of you there. On the next day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> there will be no festival. However, the Sunday Children Service will be celebrated as usual at 11.15am.

## FRANZISKA'S FAREWELL ON SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

Franziska Hesse has been in New Zealand for almost two years. Despite her retirement she put lots of effort in her work and showed great initiative and support for The Christian Community in New Zealand. However, she will soon return to the US where her family and friends are already looking forward to having her back.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of August at 11.30am we want to celebrate her farewell together, followed by a festive luncheon. Since we want her farewell to be a memorable day and express our gratitude it would be great to have a variety of artistic contributions. If you have any ideas, questions or

suggestions please contact Andrea on 579 1508 or email [andrea.tomanek@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.tomanek@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to hearing from you

## INFO PARENT EVENING FOR FUTURE CONFIRMANDS ON WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of August at 7.30pm we will offer an information evening for parents of possible future confirmands (current class 6 and 7). We will talk about the meaning of the confirmation, the confirmation class and what it involves and also the confirmation camp. Afterwards there will be enough time for you to ask questions. If you or your child are uncertain about a possible confirmation it would be good and helpful for you to attend.

Should you have any questions in the mean time please feel free to contact Andrea on 579 1508 or email [andrea.tomanek@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.tomanek@gmail.com)

***"We make a living by what we get  
We make a life by what we give"***

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