



Christchurch Congregation
of
The Christian Community
Movement For Religious Renewal

Passiontide

Visit from 5th – 7th April 2019

Dear Members and Friends of The Christian Community in Christchurch,
Where is God when human beings suffer? Why does He allow us to commit the greatest atrocities? Can the Divine not protect us from ourselves?

I assume that we all know the answers to these and similar questions. And yet it is good to ask them always again. How else can we not only comprehend, but also feel and live in the awareness of his unfathomable love? There is a Creator being who respects our humanity and freedom so much that He will not dis-empower us, taking our human rights away from us when we prove to be unworthy of his trust. There is a Creator being who loves us so much that he will suffer everything together with us, like one of us carrying our cross when we can no longer muster the strength to do it for ourselves. Where else was Christ on Friday 15th of March 2019 if not in Christchurch together with all of you. It was another 'Good Friday' when His blood was spilled with every Muslim brother and sister who got shot.

Visiting Priest:

Hartmut Borries 09 525 2305
hartmutborries@gmail.com
Contact Hartmut during the
visit at the home of Margaret
Snowdon ph: 03 332 9200

Services are held at:

Hohepa Recreation Centre
23 Barrington Street, Spreydon

Heart Group:

Hartmut Borries 09 525 2305
Paddy Gilgenberg 03 332 2458
Elizabeth Heybrook 03 303 0780
Gabriella Martinka 03 337 19 16
István Martinka 03 337 19 16

Christchurch Treasurer

Mike Sargent 03 261 2046

Newsletter/Programme

Clifford van Wely 03 325 5778
fcc.chch@gmail.com

Servers

Paddy Gilgenberg 03 332 2458

Music

Marinus La Rooij 03 331 7677

Vestry

Ulla van Erp 03 337 0024

National Council Rep.

István Martinka 03 337 19 16

Our Web Site

www.thechristiancommunity.net

When lives are being destroyed we want to help, but all too often we will feel small and powerless. We are not. Let us not under-estimate the difference that prayer can make. There are more angelic beings than anyone can count and they are ready and able to help. There is only one hindrance. Like Christ Himself, they respect our freedom and independence so much so, that they cannot interfere unless we ask them for it. As soon as we ask them for their help, when we turn to the Divine in prayer, they are allowed to do what they desire with their whole being. When we pray for one another we set them free. Therefore let us pray for one another. Let us pray for those who have died, for those who suffer grief and pain and loss, for those who live now in fear because of what has happened, even for those who are guilty of this crime. We are not alone. We can help because we can choose to work together with angelic beings and with God.

Most of us will know the prayer of St Francis by heart. I will copy it for you anyway, because I always come back to it as one of the most helpful prayers.

Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

The other prayer is by Adam Bittleston against fear. Because fear can easily become a weapon of evil wanting to enslave us in a prison of the hopeless circling thoughts and feelings of dread.

Against Fear

*May the events that seek me
Come unto me;
May I receive them
With a quiet mind
Through the Father's ground of peace
On which we walk.*

*May the people who seek me
Come unto me;
May I receive them
With an understanding heart
Through the Christ's stream of love
In which we live.*

*May the spirits which seek me
Come unto me;
May I receive them
With a clear soul
Through the healing Spirit's Light
By which we see.*

Next week I am going to fly to New York to attend our priest ordinations in Spring Valley. The week after I will come to Christchurch to celebrate our sacraments together with you. I am very much looking forward to that. Friday night, the 5th of April at 7.30 pm we will have an evening on "Community and Priesthood". In the letter from our lenker, Cheryl Nekvapil, you can read all about the next priest, Cheryl Prigg, who will be sent to New Zealand. We have been asking for this for many years, and now it is going to happen. Let us prepare for it as well as we can.

On Saturday morning we will have the service, study group and carrying group meeting as usual. After that, however we will meet to bottle fruit for those who live and work in Hohepa. Like every year we want to give back to those who make it possible that we have such a beautiful home for our meetings. After the Sunday services, we will have an opportunity to meet as community, looking forward to the coming year.

It has been said that New Zealand will never be the same again. However that may be, in times of tragedy, grief and loss we want to be close to one another, to help wherever possible. That is when the tyranny of distance can be felt most. I am looking forward to seeing you soon again. With the very best wishes to all of you

Hartmut

Gospel Readings:

Passiontide

Sunday, 31st March..... John 6:1-15
 Sunday, 7th April..... John 8:1-12

Holy Week (Passiontide)

Palm Sunday, 14th April.....Matthew 21:1-11
 Maundy Thursday, 18th AprilLuke 23:13-32
 Good Friday, 19th AprilJohn 19:1-15
 Easter Saturday, 20th April.....John 19:16-42

Easter

Easter Sunday, 21st AprilMark 16:1-8
 Sunday, 28th April..... John 20:19-31
 Sunday, 5th May..... John 10:1-16
 Sunday, 12th May..... John 15:1-27
 Sunday, 19th May..... John 16:1-33
 Sunday, 26th May..... John 14:1-31

Passing the Bowl

The Christian Community Incorporated

In 2019 we are hoping to fill our bowl with an extra \$30,000!

Here's why.....

Summarised numbers for YE December 2018 for all congregations in NZ:

INCOME

Donations	142,768
Camps, retreats etc	13,134
Interest received	168
Rents received (Auckland, Hastings)	31,775

TOTAL REVENUE

187,845

EXPENSES

Donation to Headquarters in Berlin	9,000
Contribution to Lenker costs	5,000
Employee related costs (2 full-time, 2 retired)	130,830
Property expenses (Auckland, Hastings)	17,505
Other costs	49,689

TOTAL EXPENSES

212,024

DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR

-24,179

For the last few years we have been eating into our capital reserves, so our bank balances are becoming depleted.

Now we have an exciting challenge ahead of us, to turn this trend on its heels, and show our positive commitment to the future of The Christian Community in New Zealand.

From our national treasurer Rodnie Whitlock

Programme:

**At Hohepa Recreation Centre,
 23 Barrington Street, Spreydon**

Friday 5th April

4.15pm **Setting up of Chapel**

7.30pm **"Community and Priesthood"**

Saturday 6th April

9.00am **The Act of Consecration
 of Man**

10.00am **Study Group**

11.00am **Heart Group**

1.00pm **Bottling for Hohepa**

Sunday 7th April

10.00am **The Act of Consecration
 of Man**

11.15am **Family Gathering**

**The Sunday Service
 for Children**

11.35am **Morning tea followed
 by Community Meeting**

Priest Visits 2019:

7th – 9th June **Hartmut Borries**

9th – 11th August **Hartmut Borries**

11th – 13th October **Hartmut Borries**

6th – 8th December **Hartmut Borries**

passing around the bowl



**to fund our new priest in New Zealand we appeal to you to help fill
 the bowl with an extra \$30 000**

Every extra dollar counts

- in the bowl	Auckland	03-0259-0112730-04
- monthly contributions	Christchurch	03-0531-0795113-03
- bequests	Hawkes Bay	03-0259-0165146-01
- special donations	Wellington	03-0531-0795084-02

thank you for your commitment to our future

The Christian Community – March 2019

National Council of New Zealand

Dear Members and Friends of The Christian Community in New Zealand,

At this time of writing, I have returned to Melbourne after attending the New Zealand Council meeting 2nd & 3rd March 2019. At the meeting I announced to our Council members that Cheryl Prigg who is Australian (she might refine that to say she's a Victorian!) will be sent to Auckland after her Ordination on 29th March in Spring Valley, NY, USA. Cheryl has been studying at the Spring Valley Seminary for over two years now, and has found the priest training course inspiring, challenging and transformative, some of you would have met her when she visited the Auckland congregation in winter 2018. Her journey has led to this really wonderful outcome that she is to be ordained and sent to work in our Region. She is really looking forward to her new vocation and to finding her feet on southern ground again, and doing that in New Zealand.

Before setting out to do the full-time seminary training, Cheryl completed 20 years of being a class-teacher in Steiner Schools. She had completed university studies in primary teacher education, and also studied at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Teacher Seminar. Initially she taught in a Steiner stream government school in Melbourne, and then at Sophia Mundi Steiner School. Then she completed a class teacher cycle at the Orana School in Canberra. All the while, Cheryl was a member of The Christian Community – she can tell you more of that story at her induction. While teaching in Canberra, Cheryl also completed a Masters Degree in Education, and was a foundation participant in the Pro-Seminary which has been facilitated since 2013 in Sydney by Lisa Devine and Martin Samson. We all appreciate that she has studied and worked extensively out of Rudolf Steiner's impulse, and has now fulfilled her long dreamed calling in becoming a priest of The Christian Community.

Cheryl Prigg's induction into the Auckland congregation, and therefore into the filial congregations in New Zealand will be held in the church in Auckland on Sunday 28th April 2019. Come and join the celebrations and welcome Cheryl to bless this next phase of life in The Christian Community in New Zealand, something we have been planning and working towards ever since that big disruption when Darryl Coonan was sent to Australia in 2015. We have been assisted by many generous and adventurous visiting priests in the meantime, now we will seek a way forward with Hartmut Borries and Cheryl Prigg working as resident priests, with retired priests Kevin Coffey and Elke Baublies continuing to support them and our congregations.

From Tuesday 23rd – Saturday 27th April our priests will meet at a Synod in Auckland, reviewing and looking forward to how we can respond to the call for more priest visits and services in the New Zealand congregations given this new situation.

This good news demands response-ability from congregations, friends and even strangers who ask for our Sacraments and Services on regular and special occasions.

We must raise our financial contributions to meet the expense of another full-time priest. This is evident from the financial report from 2018 (see Rodnie Witlock's report in the National Newsletter). So, a fund raising initiative is being launched by the New Zealand Council – **"passing the bowl around"**. Our aim is to raise an additional \$30,000 in 2019 -- we are appealing to each person to respond however they can. But, we will take this good news a step at a time – walking with each other and with our 'Helping Guide', the true purpose of all our strivings and community life.

Warmest greetings,
Cheryl Nekvapil
Lenker for Australia New Zealand
cheryl.nekvapil@thechristiancommunity.net

5th March 2019

BOTTLING on Saturday afternoon, 1pm at the Cafeteria of Hohepa.

For several years we have enjoyed the hospitality of Hohepa for our Priest visits and festivals. Many of us know the pear trees they have. We have a tradition to assist with bottling these pears, which has been on going for eight years now! It is fun, but also a great achievement and a gesture of saying thank you to Hohepa.

This means we need HELPERS again on the Saturday afternoon. If you have "huge" pans to bring the pears to the boil, bring a sharp knife to cut the pears, a wooden board, a funnel, and a ladle.... equipment to share for the bottling. Stephan will bring the bottles, but if you have bottles spare.... please bring them too! Let's make it a social gathering to meet one and other while our hands do the work. Many hands make light work!!! Hope to see you there.

For the heart group,

Elisabeth

HARVEST MARKET on Sunday 31st March

We are invited to set up a stall at the Harvest Market at the Rudolf Steiner school on Sunday 31st March.

Sigríd will be there with the "Little Market", but she needs people to help her setting up and meeting the people visiting our stall. It starts at **9.00 am** and runs **1.00pm**

Markets are good places to raise money for our Christian Community. Any donations of produce or other products for the stall are very welcome.

Please phone Sigríd if you can assist in any way towards the market.
Phone 03 3129 208/ 021 02250705.or email her musicsigríd@gmail.com