

Second Coming

As the story goes, Queen Victoria was out walking one summer afternoon near Balmoral Castle in Scotland. She wanted a rest and a drink of water. She passed a couple of houses and knocked on the door of one of them. There was no answer. The woman inside was busy and could not be bothered answering the door. The Queen walked on home.

The neighbour across the road saw all this through her front window. In the evening the two women chatted as they potted in their gardens. With more than a hint of jealousy, the neighbour said, 'I see that the Queen called at your place today.'

The other woman had no idea and was bitterly disappointed at missing this opportunity of having the Queen in to her home. So for the rest of her life she waited every day for the Queen to return. She never came.

At this time of the year we herald the coming of our King. Let's make sure we are not so busy that we neglect to give him the welcome we should.

'Anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.' John 13:20

Reflection on the Year

It has been a unique year, unique in a most challenging way. Firstly, let me acknowledge the countless people who have been affected adversely by COVID 19. Apart from illness and even death, the financial and emotional impact has been huge. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those so affected, both here in New Zealand and around the world.

On that point, we need to give thanks for good leadership that has meant that the fallout from COVID 19 in New Zealand has not been nearly as severe as that from so many other countries.

Any challenge is an opportunity for growth. I would like to mention two areas where I believe growth has taken place. Firstly, there is no doubt that an awareness of 'our neighbour' has been apparent. An attitude of caring was fostered, and it is my prayer and hope that this attitude will be a lasting one. I guess the responsibility lies with us as individuals to do what we can to ensure that.

Secondly, these last few months have opened our eyes in terms of discovering a new means of reaching out to people beyond our immediate congregation. I quote from last Friday's Word for Today: *'Social media offers one of the greatest tools the church has ever had for reaching the world with the Gospel.'* That really says it all. The challenge for us is to build on what we have begun in terms of our YouTube services.

On that note, I want to thank Onosai Auva'a, Joseph George and Nigel Whyte for the wonderful and time-consuming job they have done in getting our services on line.

It has certainly been a difficult year but it is important that the lessons learnt are put to good use so that 2021 is a beneficiary of those lessons and becomes a year of growth in our church.

Time for a Smile

A man goes to the doctor's and says, 'Doctor, I think I'm a bell.' 'Take these pills,' says the doctor, 'and if they don't work, give me a ring.'

Bishop John

Next Sunday (20th) we are fortunate to have Bishop John Paterson preaching at our 10.00am service. We want to finish the year on a good note!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Family Holy Communion 11.00pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Communion

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2001

SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD
HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

To Ponder

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope

YouTube Service (Carol Service)

- <https://youtu.be/TvBIS3Ox4II>

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2021 bring you many blessings.

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