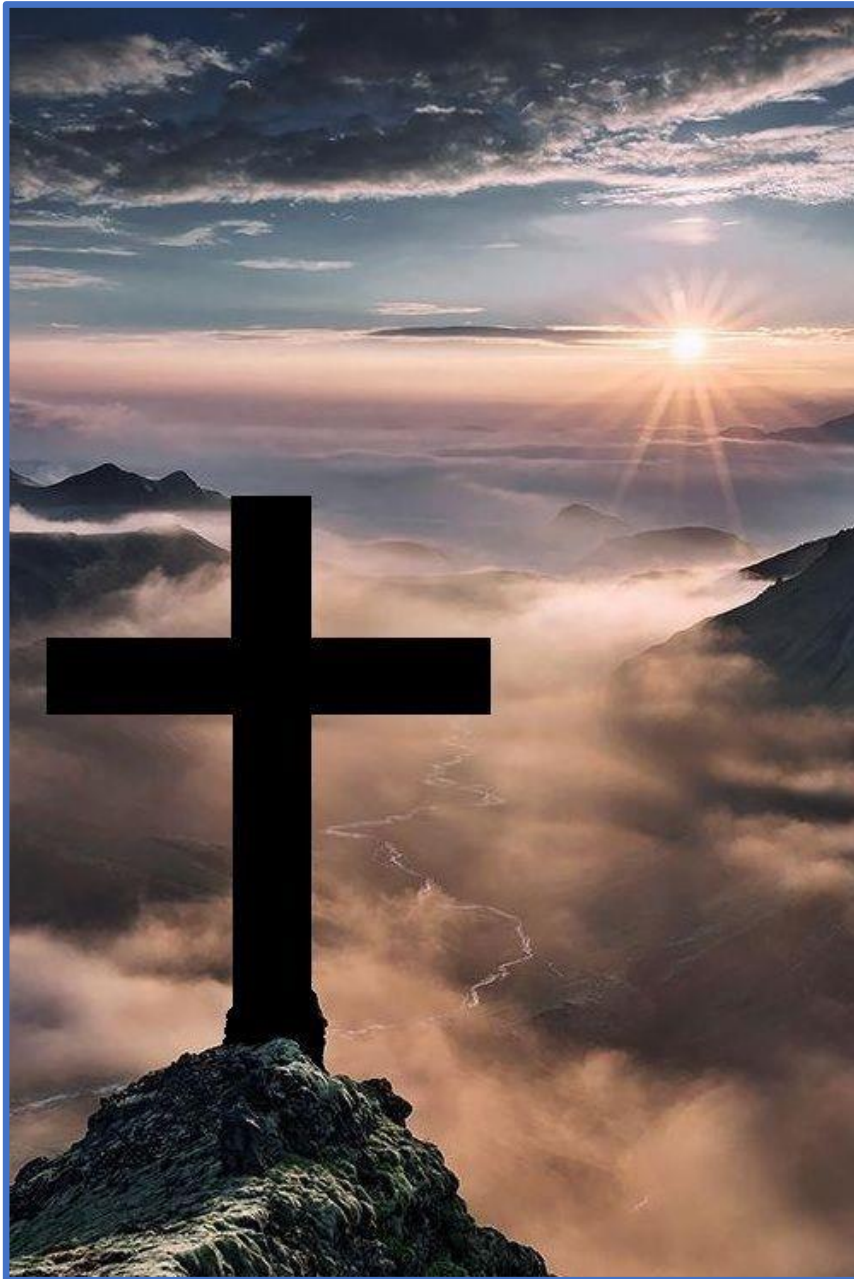




**HEAL-LINK** Issue 358 – Easter 2022

*The Order of St Luke the Physician  
Aotearoa New Zealand*

*Committed to Jesus' healing of people, situations, nations, and creation*



*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
Aleukia! He is risen indeed!*

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## Easter Message from our National Chaplain – Rev Jenny Quince

Kia ora to all members and friends of the Order of St Luke in New Zealand,

**Kia whakapaingia a te Karaiti, te Ariki o te rongomau.**

**E turaki nei i nga tau-arai o te wehe.**

**Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace.**

**Who breaks down the walls that divide.**

**Kia tau te Rangimarie o te Atua ki a koutou.**

**Kia whakapaingia te Karaiti e tuitui nei i a tatou i roto i te rongomau.**



**The peace of God be always with you.**

**Praise to God who unites us in peace.**

**Kua ara a te Karaiti!**

**He pono tonu, kua a ia.**

**Christ is risen!**

**He is risen indeed.**

For all who have come to know Jesus personally and experienced his transforming power, the cross becomes the focal point of their lives. As we turn our eyes on our crucified Lord and consider the price he paid to redeem us, the cross becomes our source of strength in this life and comfort at the approach of death. As long as Jesus is perceived merely as an example, or as a great teacher or prophet, we will never see lives transformed. The cross is the symbol of our salvation but also of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and our crucified Lord must remain the centre of our faith and our lives.

We are sustained by Jesus' sacrifice, not least through Holy Communion.

It is here that we share in the riches that he won for us.

Dear friends in Christ, this Easter, eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and me so we could live in him and celebrate wholeness of body, soul and spirit.

Never forget that because of our Lord we know where we have come from and we know where we are going, we are expected just as Jesus was on that fateful day. The heavenly one makes all things new because he is the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

Have a joyous and peace-filled Easter tide because he has risen Halleluyah!

**AROHANUI**

*Jenny*

REV. JENNY QUINCE - Email: [natchaposlnz@gmail.com](mailto:natchaposlnz@gmail.com) Contact number: 021 027 77 444



## Let me introduce myself....- Dorothy Finlay (Tauranga)



Recently I offered myself as the National Prayer coordinator for the Order of St Luke. I have been a member of the Order for many years and since the Lord has given me a love for intercession, I am happy to stand in the gap for any needs that members may have.

I spent over 30 years as a missionary nurse in the Middle East and Central Asia and you can follow my life through my autobiography **‘LEAPFROGGING FOR GOD’** available from me.



My home church is Holy Trinity Tauranga, where I serve as the Prayer chain coordinator and lead a weekly Prayer for Israel prayer group. I would ask that you to please follow up any request for prayer with an update to me within three weeks so we can either continue with your prayer request or give the Lord praise for His answers and interventions. Please make this your responsibility to let me know

***“Now unto Him who will keep you from falling  
and present you faultless  
before His Presence with exceeding joy...  
to the only wise God our Father  
be glory and majesty, both now and forever.”***

**Jude verses 24-25**

I look forward to hearing from you.  
God bless you,

*Dorothy*

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## **GETHSEMANE** - National Chaplain Elect Christina Naseri

Theme passage Mark 14:32-36

As we follow where Jesus walked during His last days on Earth, we know that now His face is set towards Jerusalem, knowing full well what is ahead of Him. When Jesus would spend time with His friends in Bethany, on the other side of the mount of Olives, He would also stop for times of peace and solitude with His disciples in the olive grove called Gethsemane, before going across to the East Gate, or Golden Gate. This is also called the Gate of Mercy, Gate of Judgment, or Gate Beautiful on the way to the Temple in Jerusalem. He would also have seen the temple lambs being taken through this gate to be inspected by the priests, before Passover.



As we approach Easter this year, which “Gate” do we need to go through? Do we need the “golden gate” of God’s glory, as Jesus rips apart the veil separating us from our God? Perhaps we need to walk through the “mercy gate” of God in our frailty, as He bestows His forgiveness? Maybe we need to avoid “judgment” as we open our heart’s door to Him? Or do we need to find our healing at the “gate Beautiful?” All of these spiritual benefits to us are due to Jesus being obedient to His Father, and then shedding His blood for you and me.



The word “Gethsemane” comes from the Hebrew words “Gat” and “Shemanim” which together mean “olive press”. When Nanai and I visited this place ourselves; we saw eight ancient gnarled olive trees - still bearing silent witness and still bearing fruit. (An encouragement for the older readers?) These olives are made into



oil for the Church of All Nations, a church built around an outcrop of rock where Jesus is said to have agonised before His Heavenly Father - just a stone’s throw away from His sorrowing disciples. Many pilgrims visit these two sites. Are these the same trees that Jesus leaned against? Which one, they conjecture? Maybe these are their offspring? Olive trees shoot from the roots when an olive tree is cut down, and this could have happened when the Romans besieged and destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. The point is not the olive trees’ authenticity - but that Jesus suffered the agony of obedience there in Gethsemane – and that His choice to obey has resulted in our salvation - True fruit.

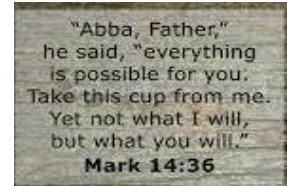
Olive presses use heavy mill stones on a press beam – known as a Gethsemane – which is placed over sacks of crushed olives. The process of making olive oil is to apply increasing pressure by adding more and more weights onto the Gethsemane. Under the extreme pressure this exerts, the olives ooze oil in a brownish red colour that looks like blood. This liquid is collected in a trough around the press. The first oil collected is the purest, virgin olive oil. This is used for anointing and worship in the Temple – the Church of All Nations, the second collection is for cooking, third for lighting lamps, and the fourth is used for cleaning.





John the Baptist had proclaimed three years previously that Jesus was the Lamb of God and Jesus knew that the Temple lambs were born in the fields of Bethlehem to die as sacrifices. So, Jesus knew full well what lay ahead of Him over the next few hours. He was still fully human and His flesh shrank from the enormity that was asked of Him. This was really not a time for solitude in the Garden. He felt the “pressure of the press” increasing. Was there another way, Father? He knew that very soon He would experience betrayal, abandonment by His friends, illegal trial and torture. Then execution by the cruellest method devised.

It was not a question of whether His Abba – Daddy - COULD take this off Him.... Jesus acknowledged that “all things were possible with God” (Mark 14:36) but whether God WOULD.



Under the increasing pressure of this horrific stress, (Isaiah 53:5) Jesus actually sweated drops of blood. (Luke 22:44) Medically this is a very rare condition called Hematohidrosis, a condition where, under extreme stress, blood oozes through intact skin. Jesus, in intense spiritual agony, showed His amazing obedience to his Father, trust in His ways, and surrender to His purposes, when He said “nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” That confession of “not as I will, but as You will” led Him on through torture and death, to victory and Heaven, for us. The wine press of God did its job; Jesus surrendered.

How do we manage under pressure?

Do we tighten up control and just try harder,  
or do we relent, let go, and let God?

Compared with Jesus, how much do we resist the easy way out?

How much do we trust our Abba – our Daddy –  
when He does not seem to speak?

These may be some questions we need to ponder.

Jesus was God-forsaken, so that we may never be forsaken.

This poem by Don Moen has a powerful message for us.

**Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me...  
Lead me to Calvary.'**

Bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus, this Easter –

Rejoice for He paid for our Salvation!

*Christina*

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## **Fantail encounter** – *Tararua Area Chaplain - Ron Atkins*

It wasn't the first time we had a fantail in the house.

A tiny bird, with a body the size of a bumblebee, that sat on the palm of my right hand for at least two and a half minutes. It was calm and looked at me, then, around for other trees. Maybe it was puzzled by me the moving "tree". There were two witnesses, and no one took pictures, no we were all in the moment, as it were.



Then it was gone, out and into a nearby tree.

In the following week a larger fantail, the male perhaps, hovered briefly in front of me, within "touch" on three occasions.

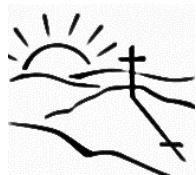
I have no evidence, no photographs, simply my memory.

This was a real event and I was fully in it, just a tiny bird and myself.

Some two thousand years ago, a small group was fully present in all that happened around Jesus. Only later, with age creeping on, was there a need to record what had happened, especially the last weeks and beyond.

Whilst the world wants triumphant leaders, those who can become tyrants and petty dictators, there are few who want compassionate leadership. Leaders who have time to listen, who are not unwilling to call people to account when necessary.

It is in the ordinary things of life where we encounter Jesus, who then, for a brief time, is fully present with us. We don't need evidence - because we know. Even if memory fades with time - we know we have had an encounter that is difficult to understand, or describe. That doesn't make it less real.



The Gospel writers may have gotten details a bit mixed up and left out bits, but the reality of Easter remains, for they were part of it, they were not bystanders.

They recalled what they saw, and what was important to them.

May you encounter Jesus this Easter,  
Blessings,

*Ron*

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**Overdue – please help – National Treasurer – Michael Bain**



Subscriptions are needed to finance the administration of the Order of St Luke. Currently, the General Account is in deficit and needs subs to be paid in full to break even for this year – ending June 2022.

There are a number of Members whose subs are currently outstanding. Sadly, if these subs are not paid there will only be 182 members registered as members.

The Subscription rate is \$25 Single or \$40 for a couple. Members may pay their Subs by Internet or by depositing cash at the ASB into the account of the Order of St Luke. For those without access to the internet, please ask another member of your Chapter, who has access to the Internet, to act as an agent on your behalf and credit the subscription to Order as laid out above. The Bank Account for the Order of St Luke is 12-3077-0055302-00

*Michael*

National Treasurer – Michael Bain – Email [mgbain@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mgbain@xtra.co.nz)