

TOGETHER



KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

ChristianChurchesNZ – Methodist – Presbyterian
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu 5032

EASTER 2026



“Peace be with you!”

Pope Leo 14th

This ancient greeting, still in use today in many cultures, was infused with new life on the evening of Easter on the lips of the risen Jesus. “Peace be

with you” (*John 20:19, 21*) is his Word that does not merely desire peace, but truly brings about a lasting transformation in those who receive it, and consequently in all of reality. For this reason, the Apostles’ successors give voice every day throughout the world to the most silent of revolutions: “Peace be with you”.

I would like to reiterate that this is the peace of the risen Christ – a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God who loves us all unconditionally.

From the Minister's Desk

In my search for insight into the meaning of the Holy Week events and Easter Sunday in 2026 I found inspiration from an unlikely source. I compare it to Jesus telling the story of the Good Samaritan. This is the story, not of a first century Samaritan but of a 21st century group of Korean musicians who call themselves BTS.

BTS are acknowledged as the biggest band in the world today but they have been in the desert for a figurative 'forty days' – 4 years of absence from their world. It is a world where music and performance are channels of grace to people of many countries who are greatly in need of grace. Now BTS are back and they have come back with more depth of understanding and hearts large enough to embrace all who need that understanding and the love that flows through it. They bring light into sorely troubled lives and they embody life in a way that gives life not just to the privileged but to the poor and down-trodden.

There are those who think that the light and life which Jesus brings is only available to those of us who make it known that we are his followers. But, thankfully, we are a people who understand that the Way and the Truth of Jesus is not confined to churches. It has always been, and always will be, freely available to all people on this earth. No-one needs a secret Christian code to open the door to let it into their lives. Many of you have been part of groups and organisations which have also been channels of God's grace so you will understand what I am talking about.

The reason I am talking about this group of seven young men is because they bring the Way and the Truth into parts of the world which are not accessible to us. These are parts of the world which are contributing to the moral chaos which feeds on greed, a callous disregard for the needs of others, a degree of entitlement which compromises the safety of anyone less powerful, on fear and ignorance.

This band has refused to bow the knee to ill-intentioned, destructive and immoral parts of the vast, world-wide music industry. Their music

promotes self-worth, challenges wrongs, turns ordinary people's experiences into song, and encourages a compassionate engagement with every aspect of life on this planet.

They are reviled by many parts of the music industry. The Press have pursued them, often with a singular viciousness. Many people of influence in the music world have tried to destroy them as a group, tried to remake them in their own image in order to validate what they themselves have become.

When I look at BTS I see the stories of Jesus' life mirrored in their experience. As we journey through Holy Week to the life-affirming events of Easter during a time of accelerated violence I am better able to relate these things that happened then to the global scale of wrongdoing in our times. I can't begin to speak the Truth that I believe to huge global industries like the Press, the Music Industry, the Justice System, the Stock Exchange. But I can learn from those who do.

By reflecting on these good-hearted, courageous Korean musicians I see more clearly how and why the religious, social and political establishments hated Jesus enough to kill him. He showed that he could do without their help when that help was denied to him. He was hugely successful in ways that mystified them. They couldn't appropriate his success and make some sort of capital out of it. He understood truths which ordinary people could relate to. The religious elite couldn't see beyond the truths they existed to promote. He changed the very definition of belief and faith, giving back to people control of their lives as believers. They saw their own power and control being stolen from them. They were afraid.

When powerful people are afraid we all tremble. Let us tremble instead before the wonder of the Risen Christ. Let us continue to profess our faith, like Martha in Bethany, like the centurion beneath the Cross;

*Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when he rose from out the tomb?*

Rev Anna Gilkison

News from Waikanae



We have been immersed in the **Season of Lent**, finding a new depth of meaning in this high point in the church year through the weekly Lenten studies held at Raumatī. Our **worship services** add to the momentum towards Good Friday and Easter.

In the midst of this traditional pattern there is our **Harvest Festival** on 22 March— puzzling to Northern Hemisphere churches in their Springtime Lent. But there is a wonderful connection with the understanding that Good Friday and Easter Day embody the harvest time for the fruits of the life of Jesus, the full maturity and fulfilment of the purpose of the humanity of the son of God.



Palm Sunday will involve us all in welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem as we shout our Alleluias and wave our greenery.

Waikanae will host the combined Parish **Maundy Thursday** service at 7pm on 2 April, when we'll

provide a symbolic meal as we remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

It's good that we'll be together again for the combined **Good Friday** service at Raumatī, as Christians all over the world remember the unfathomable love of Jesus and the mercy of God. With the world-wide Church we'll rejoice in the resurrection as we worship on **Easter Day**, filled with thankfulness and hope.

People: We warmly welcome **Meri-Risati-Garrat** into our Waikanae Uniting Church family. After many years of taking care of the Waikanae church kitchen, **Heather Freeman** has



handed that responsibility on to **Ute Michel**. Heather has ensured the kitchen is clean and tidy, well-equipped and well-stocked. She has maintained and updated the appliances, overseen redecoration, and attended to the many matters which keep a kitchen functioning efficiently. Special occasions have always been honoured with special cakes organised by Heather, and she has always made sure we have our Easter hot cross buns. The kitchen is the centre of every home, and our

church kitchen is close to the heart of our life together. We thank you for the love you have shared with us, Heather.

The World Day of Prayer

service, held at the Waikanae Presbyterian Centre on 6 March brought together members of the Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist and KUP churches. We shared in a deeply moving service prepared by Christian women of Nigeria, a country of over 211 million people, where women and girls face harsh discrimination. The faithful devotion of those women shone through their stories and prayers.



At our **Women's Fellowship** meeting on 17 March, St Patrick's Day, we learned about Ireland's patron saint, and planned for the May Women's Fellowship service, when we focus on the National Fellowship's Special Projects: Starship Foundation; and Tongan Community Trust. We noted that the World Federation of Methodist Women is holding its 15th

Congress in Auckland this September.

Soup Group will meet on 21 April, 10.30 at the Roberts' home. We'll ponder the question: "How do we live the fullness of life in these troubled times?" and we'll share in a soup and rolls lunch.

Diana Roberts

About People

A very Happy Birthday to all who are having Birthdays in April.

To those celebrating an Anniversary we hope you will enjoy your special day.


For all who are unwell we pray that you will find comfort, strength and peace.

The Pastoral Care Team.

Lyn, Diane, Diana, Bastiana, Dianne, Carole and Merrill

**As we cope with all the bad news in the world,
Samuel Taylor Coleridge reminds us to remember:**

The Little Things



**The little bugs that scurry,
The little beasts that creep
Among the grasses and the weeds
And where the leaves are deep:
All of them were made by God
As part of God's design.
Remember that the world is theirs,
Not only yours and mine.**

**He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all!**

Honouring the Everyday Artists

They're a flamboyant and temperamental lot on the whole, the TV celebrity chefs. Colourful language, dashing appearance and a taste for ingredients unavailable to many of us. Thought-provoking? Inspirational? These larger-than-life characters have all worked their way through kitchen apprenticeships, and run their own restaurants, but on TV they come across as entertainers.

I want to honour someone who isn't a celebrity chef, but who's regarded with affection and respect by foodies in Aotearoa New Zealand, and especially by those of us for whom cooking isn't an entertainment, but an everyday activity.

The *New Zealand Listener* magazine of 17 March 2007 farewelled Lois Daish, as she signed off with her 936th *Food* Column. Journalist Alison Mudford quotes Lois's statement: 'Cooking is one of the everyday arts' and notes that the columnist has never avoided the difficulties that are part of people's lives: food for funerals, food fashions, the loss of small local food retailers, food to satisfy both children and parents, and the

column that attracted most response – the observation that 'no-one can cook good nutritious food unless they have enough money to buy ingredients and equip their kitchen.'

Lois's own goodbye is modest: '...this column has never been all my own work. I have benefitted from finding out what other people cook and eat, and what ingredients they grow and produce. But perhaps more than anything, I have been enriched by other people's thoughts, spoken and written.'

This deep interest in and concern for the lives and welfare of others may have something to do with her Methodist roots, and her ongoing involvement with the faith community.

The Bible has its celebrities: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Samson, Elijah – the 'Mighty Ones' some call them. Although we catch glimpses of their humanity, they can seem far removed from us.

Many of the people whom the church has revered over the centuries – the saints, the 'Holy Ones' – can give the impression that they were intimidating, eccentric or even bizarre. Most have come to be

regarded as people who separated themselves from the common things of life. The risen Jesus, though, didn't surround himself with glory, but cooked a homely breakfast on the beach for the hungry disciples who'd been fishing all night. Jesus teaches us the everyday art of living.

We share his mission, and honour those, like Lois, who faithfully work to fulfil it.



Diana Roberts

From Methodist Touchstone

May 2007

Lent Study

Our Lent Study this year was based on Luke 24:32

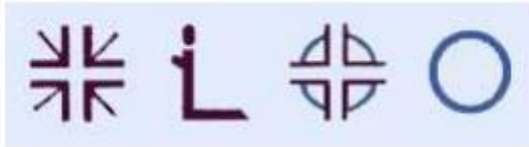
‘were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us.’



There was enjoyable and vibrant discussion as we gained insight to our own hearts as the course progressed. Our thanks to the study leaders – Anna, Desmond and Diana, as well as all the study participants.

World Day of Prayer 2026

The World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday in March each year. It is a worldwide movement of prayer involving people from many denominations and more than 170 countries.



The symbol for World Day of Prayer was adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the celtic cross, and the circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

from worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

Each year the service is prepared by women from a different country who share the hopes, challenges, and experiences of their people. This year the service was written by the women of Nigeria and based on Matthew 11:28, with the theme "I Will Give You Rest: Come."

Our Women's Fellowship helps plan the local services, with members taking part by reading prayers and stories. Services are held in Raumati/Paraparaumu and Waikanae and are hosted by a different church each year.

The service is always inspiring as we learn about the lives, struggles, and faith of women and children in other parts of the

world. A collection is taken each year to support organisations such as CWS, the Bible Society, and Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa.

It is a joy to gather with members of other churches across Kāpiti to share our faith. The one-hour service is followed by afternoon tea and fellowship.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer, and I warmly encourage both men and women from our congregation to attend. It is truly a blessing.

For more information and the service booklet:

worlddayofprayer.org.nz/resources



Kate Foley



“In my ignorance I have prayed for A, B, and C - but don't give me them if you foresee that they would in reality be to me either snares or sorrows.” ...

If God had granted all the silly prayers I've made in my life, where should I be now?

C.S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer

Thrifty Place



Last year, the Thrifty Place volunteers and customers were very sad to say goodbye to regular customer Elizabeth's former guide dog, Yates, as he went away to enjoy retirement. This year, we were happy to welcome Elizabeth's new guide dog, Nessa, who is 4 years old, and the mother of 17 puppies! We look forward to seeing a lot of them both in the future

Kay McIntosh. and Kate Foley

A Vigil for Peace

Palm Sunday



4-5pm 29 March
at Raumati Church
10 Weka Road

*Come and light a candle
say a prayer*

Share your concern about events in the Middle East

EVERYONE WELCOME

Raumati Playgroup

First of all I would just like to say a massive thank you for all the golf balls and envelopes that we have received. We have also received some other craft items too and I really appreciate everyone's kindness!



This month has been a really fun month at playgroup with some of my all time favourite activities. My favourite activity that we did was fairy potions. For this I made a homemade powder which you just need to add water and the kids can watch the potion fizz and bubble away.

The next week we did bouncing bubbles. For this the kids needed to wear a glove or a sock on their hand and we blew bubbles from my homemade mixture (consisting of water, dishwashing liquid and



sugar) and when the bubbles land on your hand you are able to bounce the bubbles without them popping. So much fun!



poked holes in the cardboard to thread flowers through so it looked like flowers in a vase. One little boy gifted his to his grandma for her Birthday.

The last activity that we did was a flower craft where I had drawn a vase on cardboard and then I



Thank you so much to our volunteers Marie, Bev, Maureen and Pearl for helping out with playgroup. We couldn't do it without you!

Monica Simpson

Poetry with Robin List: Patrice Morant (White)

As we approach ANZAC Day I look back at how far we have come as a society since the days when Patrice Morant wrote this poem. I have no desire to detract from the bravery of the New Zealand troops who paid such a high price per capita, especially the Maori Battalion.

Perhaps it was the Irish side of my father's mother's family that gave him the lungs that had him turned down for active service. The trouble was his father's name, found in Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, a few in England and, unfortunately, shared with a German Reichmarshal.

That raised the ire of the mob end of the League of Empire Loyalists. My parents' house was stoned repeatedly and swastikas were painted on their gates. My sister was harassed by teachers. The stoning kept on occasionally until I was about four. It was frightening for a small child who normally led a sheltered, comfortable life.

For some reason, probably parental incitement, I was harassed by a small group for a time about age 11 to 12. Because of these very personal experiences I have real empathy for Patrice Morant (White), a young Quaker (Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri) who in 1939 wrote:



Flowers of War *by Patrice Morant*



The rata is too red this bitter year,
We who have known so much of suffering
Can't quell our rebel hearts, while flowers fling
Blood's colour at us like a vengeful spear.
The kowhai flaunts her gold too boldly here
Avert your eyes, it is not good to see
That guilty colour worn by any tree,
Since gold has laid youth on a bloody bier.

Flowers of War won a prize, but as she later wrote; "That prize was followed by a visit from a plain clothes policeman, questioning my views on the war.

"The application for my training college was refused so I decided to get a job in the interim at the Hokitika Mental Hospital. I lasted only a few months when word came through from Wellington that I was to be dismissed immediately. No reason was given."

This ANZAC Day we have good reasons to remember with gratitude, but with no room for smugness.



Our Hirers

Actively Coping with Cancer



Christine Lenk has been facilitating this friendly and welcoming group at Raumati church for several years. The meetings are on Thursdays in Raumati Hall and involve gentle Tai chi Qigong movements to music which helps with mental focus and healing.

New members are always welcome. The group members are very supportive of each other and occasionally spend time together with shared lunches or morning teas.

Actively Coping With Cancer (Kapiti)

Raumati Church Hall at 10 Weka Road

Thursday afternoons from 12.30 to 1.30

This is a supportive, gentle exercise and relaxation group for people who currently have, or had, cancer, or who are supporting someone with cancer.

Sessions include:

- Tai Chi Qigong movements: these are health-enhancing gentle movements, with deep rhythmic breathing in a calm relaxed state of mind. Exercises can be done standing or sitting and are adapted to meet varying needs
- Monthly wellness-based group discussions, relaxation and stress management skills (optional)

For more information or to come along to one of our meetings, please contact: Christine Lenk 04 902 2548 or 021 126 7883

suggested koha of \$7 -10 helps cover costs

Raumati Women's Fellowship

The Raumati Women's Fellowship meets on Thursday 9 April at 10am in the meeting room. Our speaker will be Pete Strang whose topic is :

THERE IS MORE TO FAITH THAN SORTING OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION-stories from a somewhat adventurous life with family and others.

All women are very welcome.

Contacts: Lyn Martin 04 9048361 022 165 7523

Merrill Baker 04 9024134 027 353 2307

Devotions led by Nancy Lilly at the March Raumatī Women's Fellowship included this look at creation:

How wise is the Lord in in all His works of creation!! His wisdom is seen in all animals and plants.

The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first; a cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first but the four legs of the elephant all bend forward in the same direction. God planned that this animal would have a huge body, too large to live on two legs. For this reason, He gave it four fulcrums, with the wrists forming the knees, so that it can rise from the ground easily.



God created the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed!

The lives of each of you may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if you will only entrust Him with your life. Only the One who made the brain and the heart can successfully guide them to a profitable end.

E-Prayer Requests

A group from our Parish receives requests for prayer every week. You can ring, text, or email to ask for the request to be passed on:

Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 or text 0273 532 307 or
amkram.nz@gmail.com

Maureen Calhaem 04 299 1903 or text 0278 568 611 or
maureen.calhaem@xtra.co.nz

The requests will remain confidential and names will not be used without your permission.

Maureen and Merrill

April: for your diary

8	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
9	10am-12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
10	10.30-11am	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
14	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
16	10.30 – 11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
19	10am – 3pm	UPOG Gathering, Raumati
21	10.30am	Waikanae Soup Group

The May Together will be printed on 1st May

**The parish office will be operating on reduced hours
from 2 – 21 April due to staff holidays.**

emails and answerphone messages will still be monitored and, if you need to talk with someone before the 21 April, you can call the office mobile phone: 020 4061 9789 to speak with Monica Simpson or Kate Foley on 021 120 8045



Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to breakfast
prior to the Raumati 10 am
Easter Sunday service

Cereals - toast - hot cross buns
tea and coffee - Easter eggs

Easter Sunday from 8.30 am
Raumati Church Hall

Contact Kate Foley
Koha welcome
RSVP appreciated but not required



April: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Craft group, Raumati Thrifty Place
Thursdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Raumati Playgroup (term time) Thrifty Place
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
2 Maundy Thursday 7pm	Full combined at Waikanae, Rev Anna Gilkison		
3 Good Friday 10am	Full combined at Raumati, Rev Anna Gilkison		
5 Easter Sunday	Robin List HC	Easter Sunday Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
12	Maureen Calhaem	Barrie Woods	Desmond Corrigan
19	Rev Anna Gilkison	Rev Roger Wiig	
26	Worship Group	Heather List	Rev Anna Gilkison

WWW.kup.org.nz

email: kapitiuniting@outlook.com Phone: 04 902 5809

Kapiti Uniting Parish
Presbyterian - Methodist - ChristianChurchesNZ

Easter Services

2 April - Maundy Thursday
7 pm Waikanae

3 April - Good Friday
10 am Raumati

5 April - Easter Sunday
10 am Waikanae
10 am Raumati

Rev. Anna Gilkison

10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach
9 Taiata Street, Waikanae Beach

www.kup.org.nz