

Kia ora e te whanau

Yep, me, Andrew, again.

First, a reminder that we've signed up for the **Church Life Survey**

It will give valuable information to each congregation about your own life, and will help us as a movement to see where we are positioned and what shifts might be required to enhance our future.

The 2023 Church Life Survey NZ is nationwide survey of church attenders. It's a 1-in-5 year opportunity for our movement to gain information from our attenders on demographics, church life, community, faith & leadership. These insights will be helpful for future decision making, for benchmarking in this post-COVID era. It will also contribute to a national picture of NZ church life.

UCANZ has committed to funding the survey costs. The survey opens this week - on the 26th of this month, and runs through into early November. We encourage all churches to participate.

We understand that your results will be available in *real time*.

When you participate you will invite all church attenders to complete a 12–14-minute survey via their smartphone, computer, or pen & paper. The survey will be available in English, Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Hindi & Spanish.

You can register by following this link:

<https://clsnz.org/registration/pro4RuHlyi1OhEs7/parish/start>

Our group code is **316363**

Then simply follow the on-screen instruction.

Please be in touch with the office for more details, especially if you get stuck. We'll keep beating this drum as we believe it to be important.

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Personal and Leadership resources

Fear of failure preventing you from becoming at least an approximation of who you could be? This one might be for you

Breaking the Cycle of Self-Sabotage - How to Overcome the “Golden Larva Syndrome”

A roadmap for identifying and overcoming the self-defeating habits that hold you back.

It can be read here: <https://knowledge.insead.edu/career/breaking-cycle-self-sabotage-how-overcome-golden-larva-syndrome>

And now for something completely different. Not so much about leadership and personal development so much as interest with theological implications. Over the years I've thought a fair amount about death. Mostly anticipating my own. The issue has been sharpened over this past weekend by one of my best friends being one day's worth of antibiotics away from not making it through the night. He made it.

I came across a couple of articles that I found stimulating – they speak to the day in which we find ourselves. Both are on the **Big Think** website. The first is titled **A longer life often means a worse death** and can be read here:

<https://bigthink.com/health/longer-life-worse-death/#>

It holds up a mirror to our attitudes toward death and the lengths as a culture we go to in delaying it as long as possible without thinking too deeply whether or not the trade-off in misery is worth it.

The second article **Why Death Matters** highlights, as the article describes, 'to be alive is always to live in a "precarious condition."' Life itself needs to be constantly recreated – there is a need for death, renewal, change within the living organism to actually keep it alive. Life is a risky business. At times tenuous. It can be read here:

<https://bigthink.com/13-8/why-death-matters/>

And finally, **Another Homily**

I know it's Pentecost Sunday coming up. Usually we use the Acts passage. Since I've committed myself to the Gospel text for each Sunday, this time we will look at the alternative gospel text. The primary gospel text is John 20 vs 19-23, but I put up a homily based on this text for 16th of April and have nothing further I wish to add. So this week, it John 7 vs 37-39 which is set in the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths/Sukkot. It is a prefiguring of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that happened at Pentecost. My title 'How Thirsty are you?' It can be experienced here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QibX-dmxTzc>

Kind regards / Ngā Manaakitanga

Andrew Doubleday
Ministry Facilitator

UCANZ Office



Uniting Congregations
OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Postal Address **UCANZ**, 65 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608