



Messy Church Easter Newsletter 2020

We on the National Team of Messy Church have this week had our team meeting on 'zoom' for the first time. I suspect it will not be the last time we do that. As a result, we wanted you all to know that we are still here for you, praying for you and available to provide ideas via this newsletter, facebook and our website, for this Easter season, while we are all in lockdown because of Covid-19.

We recognise that many of you are very adept at using the creative gifts God has given you and you will have already designed, created and put in place activities and crafts and shared these with your Messy Church whanau. However, on the other hand there are those who are not so gifted so we have decided to provide links to websites, so that your people also have access to the good creative ideas that are prevalent at this time.

Here is the list that we have compiled from others who have shared with us: strandz.org.nz ; kidsfriendly.org.nz ; brf.org.uk ; messychurch.ca ; childrenandfamiliesnz.blogspot.com ; illustratedministry.com ; Anglican Movement Children and Families facebook page, and lostsheep.com.au ; there is also our Messy Church facebook and Ollie the Kiwi's facebook. Also have a look on our website where we have put some PDF files for your interest.

'The bible theme that comes through for me at the moment is the one of Jesus being the Good Shepherd who keeps caring for us. We need to accept in faith that He will continue to do that.'

Messy Church NZ is in good heart as epitomised in having over 120 people attending our two recent conferences in Rotorua and Christchurch. A number of those attending were investigating the concept of Messy Church and the feedback we have received was most encouraging. The result of which is that a number of churches are planning to start a Messy Church when the current restrictions are lifted.

The phrase 'We are all in this together' - is most relevant as we consolidate and support each other through these challenging and opportunistic times. Let's be in contact with other Messy Churches in the near vicinity to where we are, recognising that their context is likely to be different from ours, however it is still a valid expression of church as we keep the five core values of Christ-centred, Hospitality, All-age, Creativity and Celebration in what we do.

Blessings, Richard - Team Leader - Messy Church NZ National Team.

From the Editor

Apologies for having temporarily lost access to my computer with Publisher because of Covid-19. We have had to create this newsletter in Word instead. Our post Easter newsletter will return to its usual format.

The Easter journey itself involves unexpected change and uncertainty where a community is walking an unexpected and grief induced path of an uncertain future, much like we are all on now. We can identify with Jesus' friends Good Friday and Saturday and the struggles to make sense of things and see our way through. Hang in there whanau by walking alongside each other, online or through technology of course, and together we can look forward to celebrating the hope of an 'Easter Sunday experience' once this is all over.

You remain deeply in our prayers of trust, hope and provision of all you need, and most importantly for God's loving embrace always.

Matt 6:25-26 "Look at the birds of the air... your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they?"

Carrole