

PRAYER FOR OTHERS 16 September 2019

Loving God, who shows us that we are loved and should love others taking Jesus as our example, we share today the joy of the Tuhoe people in the apology and pardon by our Government for the wrong done to them and to the prophet Rua Kenana, just over 100 years ago. We acknowledge our own parish's connection with Maungapohatu through the missionary teaching service there of the late Rene Paulger, when Rua was living there. We thank you for that and for the energetic way in which she managed our large Sunday School here at St Andrews in the late 1950s.

As is our habit, we pray for the poor, the disadvantaged and the refugees in other parts of the world, where we know the only way we can show Jesus' love to them is to support agencies like Christian World Service, Christian Blind Mission and the Red Cross. Be with the staff of these and other agencies as they bring food, sight, healthcare and skills training to so many, and help them to know that they are doing your will, we pray. We can only show this love to a few, but every one of them is important in your sight.

We pray also for the young people in our own country, and think especially of the senior classes in secondary schools completing the qualifications over the next two months which will help shape their future lives. We thank you for our health professionals working at this time to prevent further spread of measles and treating the thousand who **have** caught the disease – one we thought we had eliminated by immunisation. We cannot understand parents who fail to protect their children in this way.

At the other end of the life scale, we pray for the very elderly and pray that loving families and carers will enhance the quality of their final years – not an easy task in the face of dementia but an essential one in a caring society. Our front row here are an inspiration to us all – continue to bless and guide them we pray, in Jesus' name. We pray also for our friend Robyn Dawkins, who will undergo an operation in hospital tomorrow. We know You will be with her.

Now a short prayer for ourselves: Lord, thank you for walking with us through the seasons of our lives: for the winter, when we are held safely in your arms through the darkness; for the hope of spring, as we are filled with new promise and life; for summer time, full of warmth and colour; and for autumn days, as leaves fall to seed new growth; You are always with us, AMEN