



President's Report

Ngā mihi tino mahana kia koe i runga i te ingoa o Ihu Karaiti ta mātou Ariki.

‘Warm greetings to you in the name our Lord Jesus Christ’

As the year draws to a close, I want to acknowledge the dedication of all chaplains who work in various capacities in their organisations. Also, the VCAs who work at the hospitals. I pray for all the chaplains/VCAs and other colleagues who would be on call during Christmas period.

The Association was able to provide some wonderful Webinars for Professional Development with the help of great presenters. We hope to offer more sessions of PD in the new year.

I am grateful to Barry Fisk – CEO ICHC for his support and regular meetings with the Executive Committee. The meetings have been very helpful to achieve goals for Chaplaincy in our country. Next year we hope to make contact with other employers as a way of supporting our members in hospice, rest homes, St Johns Ambulance and other organisations where Healthcare Chaplains are employed.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all the members of NZHCA Executive and Registration committees for their commitment to offer their time and expertise to the Association work. I hope your Christmas is as wonderful as you are. I truly consider you a blessing.

Let us remember the innocent families who have become victims of the cruel wars around the world and pray for their safety. May God bring PEACE to the world and specially to the regions torn by war.

The true spirit of Christmas lies in our hearts that we share with our family, friends, patients, and stranger through the year. May this Christmas end the year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year.

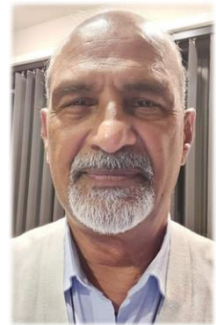
On behalf of all the members of NZHCA Executive Committee, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

Blessings,

Ngā mihi nui,

Rev Amail Habib

Ko te Atua te wai o te ora | God is the River of LIFE



Expressions of interest – C-Mail editor



Our C-Mail editor Jacqui Tuffnell is busy with her PhD and we are looking for expressions of interest from members who might have some time on their hands to produce C-Mail on a quarterly basis.

Please contact Jacqui at tuffnell.jacqueline@gmail.com if you are interested in knowing more about what the role involves.

Expressions of interest – Secretary for Executive

The Secretary works closely with the President, Treasurer and Registrar. The role requires attending to preparation for and attendance at meetings including conferences, receiving of inwards and outwards correspondence and ensuring website is up to date. If you would like to hold this amazing role and wish to receive the job description please contact Shelley at shelleygilmore@gmail.com.

Spotify Christmas Carols Playlist



<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/37i9dQZF1DX4jxmdWGk453>

A trip down memory lane...Christmases past



<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/kiwi-christmas>

Christmas Dessert Platter recipe



<https://www.newworld.co.nz/recipes/desserts/christmas-dessert-platter>

The Greatest Song Among Men

Let us listen to the song of Christmas again; Now once more we'll hear the story of God among men:

The birth of our Lord, the baby adored by angels of number untold, the humble stable, the star up above, and the story never grows old.

Mary, Joseph, and the Inn without a space— God's great care and love provided another place.

The grandest announcement to shepherds amazed, that shattered the night so still, that peace had come down from Heaven to men, so that all might live in good will.

And the Wise Men who brought gifts of precious worth Bowed so low and worshipped the King who came down to earth.

Christ Jesus, so humble, was born here below to ransom all souls from sin.
Oh, the wonder of that first Christmas night is the greatest song among men.

Christ Jesus, so humble, was born here below to ransom all souls from sin.
Oh, the wonder of that first Christmas night is the greatest song among men.

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Christmas in Tauranga

What do you do at Christmas in your area of work? The Chaplaincy department at Tauranga hold a ward decorating competition each year and we have had some amazing entries. We are also blest with a wonderful lady, Joan, who makes literally thousands of Christmas/Encouragement cards every year which both Whakatane and Tauranga chaplains give out to staff and patients as a way to encourage and also to ensure we get to thank all staff at the end of the year for their mahi. It is a wonderful time of celebration and showing the love of God to those we work alongside. One year we walked into the orthopaedic manager's office to find that his whole office had been decorated – it looked amazing.



Christmas Joy – Jokes for your Crackers....

1. What is the best Christmas present you can buy your child?
A broken drum.... nobody can beat that!
2. I took Buzz Lightyear Christmas shopping with me....we went to Bed, Bath and Beyond.
3. How much does it cost to courier a package overnight on Christmas Eve?
Eight bucks, nine if it is foggy.
4. What is every parent's favourite Christmas Carol?
Silent Night

Mary Did You Know...?

In Luke 1:26 – 35, we read that Mary was betrothed to Joseph at the time of the angel Gabriel's appearance to her. In Biblical times there were three stages to a Jewish wedding.

1. The engagement. This was the formal agreement made by the fathers of the couple.
2. The betrothal: This was the ceremony where the couple made mutual promises. They promised to be faithful to each other and it required divorce to break their betrothal. So, breaking a betrothal wasn't just a give the ring back and that's an end to it situation. Then finally,
3. The marriage: which took place a year after the betrothal and where the bridegroom finally claimed his bride.



It is interesting to note that the name 'Mary' means 'exalted one.' That's what Gabriel meant when he called her, 'you who are highly favoured.'

It must have frightened Mary to have an angel appear to her, even though she would have known of the appearance of the same angel to her relative, Zachariah, and of the strange circumstances surrounding Zachariah's inability to speak. She also knew that Elizabeth, Zachariah's wife was miraculously pregnant after many years of marriage. So, the angel's appearance wasn't entirely a new concept for her but still, it confused and

disturbed her.

However, in the conversation between Mary and Gabriel, Mary didn't protest, or burst into tears and say,

'Oh no. That's not going to happen to me. Think of the shame. Why, Joseph would divorce me. I'd be known as a loose woman. I'm not having that baby. No way.'

Her attitude was one of humility. She questioned to gain understanding, then accepted the angel's message. In surrendered obedience, she says in Luke 1:26 – 35,

"I am the Lord's servant. Let everything you said about me come true."

Later when Mary visits Elizabeth, she said, 'My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.'

The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and she conceived. In church language, we call this the incarnation: God becoming human.

To understand what becoming human meant, I think of the beautiful song, "Mary Did You Know." The words in that song that most touch my heart are:

‘Mary did you know, that when you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God.’ Think about that. Mary kissed the face of God.

Imagine Mary in that stable, holding her baby in her arms, and leaning down to kiss his soft, plump cheeks. She knew she held a special baby, who would one day rule her people, because the angel has told her so. But, at that point in time, she had no idea who Jesus was.

God, the creator of the universe made himself a vulnerable baby. Think about that. WE all know babies are completely dependent upon others. They can’t communicate except through gurgles, grunts and crying. They are unaware of danger and cannot remove themselves from danger. Babies depend on someone else to feed them, change their soiled nappies, and place them in a safe, quiet place to sleep.

John 1:14 tells us ‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.’

Christ was truly God and truly man. The Nicene Creed was first adopted at the First Council of Nicaea in 325AD and is still recited today recited in our more traditional churches. Part of it says,

‘For us men, and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.’ The divine and human natures of Jesus are unified in him.

From his birth, Jesus led a life of hardship and suffering, identifying with our suffering world. He was born in a stable among the smells of animals and straw. Soon afterward he endured a trip on the back of donkeys and perhaps camels to Egypt while in the land of his birth, King Herod slaughtered all the boy children under two years old. As an adult he endured harassment from the religious leaders of the time, the jeering of crowds, whipping, and carrying his own cross to the place of crucifixion. There a sword was thrust into his side as he suffocated and died.

But the suffering Jesus saw on earth, and the suffering he experienced as he lived and died didn’t deter him. Sin and pain broke his heart but not his determination.

However, God never intended that the arrival of Jesus would solve all the problems of this world. He revealed to us by his coming as an infant, that life on earth has meaning. Our suffering has meaning. He showed us how to live at peace in a troubled world, how to be an unhurried and healing presence. He came in the flesh to be an example to us. Then he came in the Spirit, to be life in us. He left his Word with us for our comfort in our suffering.

So, this Christmas, as we sing carols about the birth of Jesus, and see nativity scenes like this one here, let’s take time out to think upon how God Almighty allowed himself to become so vulnerable as to come to us in the form of a baby in the plan to redeem us to himself. Could we find ways to make ourselves a little more vulnerable to Him this Christmas season?

Gaynor Lincoln (Executive Registrar)

Professional Development

South Pacific College – Certificate in Chaplaincy, leading to the New Zealand Certificate in Christian Studies (Level 5)



The Certificate in Chaplaincy is for people passionate about helping others through life's ups and downs. This programme provides training and upskilling for professionals and volunteers already supporting and pastoring others in their role, as well as students wanting to enter this field.

This certificate will comprise the following four courses:

CMN501 Chaplaincy Foundations (15 Credits)

Students will gain an understanding of the role of a chaplain, as distinct from other jobs such as minister, coach, or counsellor. Students will also explore chaplaincy environments in New Zealand, such as interfaith settings and agency work, and relevant implications for practice.

CMN502 Chaplaincy Religious Practices (15 Credits)

Avoiding burnout and achieving longevity needs a careful approach. This course provides a framework of ethics, boundaries, and life habits to assist chaplains in preserving their spiritual, emotional and mental health while serving others.

CMN503 Chaplaincy Pastoral Care (15 Credits)

One of the most powerful skills of a good chaplain is their ability to listen effectively, and to be present with people in their time of need. In this course, students will gain the tools and techniques required to master these essential capabilities.

CMN504 Chaplaincy Practicum (15 Credits)

Participating in and reflecting on a real-world chaplaincy placement, students will integrate the knowledge and concepts taught in the above courses, and embed them into their practice. Guest practitioners will share further real-world perspectives from various chaplaincy settings, in online learning sessions.

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See <https://www.spbc.org.nz/study/courses/CertCH> for more information.

CAMPUS AND DISTANCE LEARNING



Theology@Otago 2024

Explore faith, yourself and the world.

Pre-Christmas Summer School 13 November–16 December 2023

CHTH 224/324 Special Topic: Theology and the Environment

Summer School 8 January–17 February 2024

PAST 323/MINS 415* Christian Ministry in Te Ao Māori
(with intensive, 15–19 January 2024,
venue to be advised)

Semester 1 2024

CHTH237/337* Moana Pasifika Theology
(intensive 11–15 February 2024, Dunedin)

BIBS 112 Interpreting the Old Testament
BIBS 121 Interpreting the New Testament
BIBS 131 Introductory New Testament Greek Language 1
BIBS 317/413 God, Suffering and Justice in the Hebrew Bible
CHTH 102 The History of Christianity
CHTH 218/318 The Person and Work of Christ
CHTH 233/333 Public Theology: Faith in the Public Square
CHTH 320/420 Public Theology and Social Justice
HEBR 131 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1
PAST 216/316* Current Perspectives on Pastoral Care
PAST 324/MINS 424* The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader

Semester 2 2024

CHTH 236/336* Māori Religion and Theology
(with intensive 1–5 July, Ohope Marae,
Bay of Plenty)

BIBS 132 Introductory New Testament Greek II
BIBS 211/311 God, Land and Exile in the Hebrew
Prophets

BIBS 226/326 Jesus in the New Testament
CHTH 111 Doing Theology
CHTH 131 God and Ethics in the Modern World
CHTH 416 The Theology of Bonhoeffer
HEBR 132 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 2
PAST 225/325* Special Topic [A Topic in Pacific Theology]
PAST 318/MINS 410* Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss

Pre-Christmas Summer School 11 November–15 December 2024

CHTH 217/317 Special Topic: Theology and Science

Full year

BIBS 213/313/411 Hebrew OT Exegesis
BIBS 223/323/421 Greek NT Exegesis

All papers are taught on campus and by distance learning,
except where indicated (*distance only)

Contact

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4th Floor, Arts Building
Tel 03 479 8639 | Email theology@otago.ac.nz | otago.ac.nz/theology
Or contact AskOtago: ask.otago.ac.nz | Tel 0800 80 80 98

Websites of Interest

ERIC: <https://www.pastoralezorg.be/page/erich/>

Transforming Chaplaincy: <https://www.transformchaplaincy.org/>

Chaplaincy Innovation Lab: <https://chaplaincyinnovation.org/>

Nathaniel Centre: The NZ Catholic Bioethics Centre: <http://www.nathaniel.org.nz/>

Spiritual Care Australia: <https://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au/>

The views and opinions expressed in C-Mail are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team. Articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.

Submissions of material for C-Mail to be sent to tuffnell.jacqueline@gmail.com
Deadline for next issue is mid-February 2024.

We are looking for the following types of copy—book and article reviews, ministry updates, what's happening in your setting, professional development courses you have undertaken, articles you have written and inspirational material. Thank you to the contributors for this current issue.

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