

North Lake Macquarie Uniting Congregation

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Hello my Friends,

In these trying times I hope this letter finds you well. As we are back in another lockdown I wanted to be in touch with you to offer some words of encouragement and to keep in touch. The situation we find ourselves in is somewhat different this time round compared to last year. This year the Corona Virus is a different, more aggressive strain and it is closer to us. You may be more worried this time round, I am aware of my own increased concern at this time. The presence of the virus in our area and in the Hawkins Village where we have several church members, will have us all concerned.

It's frustrating for us all to have our lives railroaded, turned around and upside down. Some will have been more upset than others, for example, one of my couples had their wedding plans frustrated *for a fourth time!* We may have fears for ourselves as well as fears for some others. I'm glad that in my life I can pray. I like to remember people in prayer it's a caring connection and a way of keeping people close. I encourage you to remember each other in prayer. You might also phone some of your church friends to keep in touch and to assure them that they are not alone or forgotten.

This week's gospel reading (*John 6:51-58*) could be interpreted as Jesus bonding closer with his friends where he encourages them to foster a close connection with him and also a close connection with each other. The Communion meal which Jesus talks about will help strengthen the connection with him and with each other. Let's maintain our connection with Jesus and with each other through this time of lockdown. Followers of Jesus are not those who despair, but are those who are ever confident in their Lord, ever trusting his word that he will *never leave them nor forsake them*. I hope you will experience his closeness, comfort and peace at this time.

My thoughts are very much with you: our thoughts are with each other.

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you,

Ever yours,

Kenneth.