



Sharing the cross with neighbours at Easter

NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA
1-31 MARCH 2024

Tena koutou katoa

Throughout March, many of our parishes will be extending the hand of friendship to neighbours for Neighbours Aotearoa month. This year, with Easter falling at the end of March, Neighbours Aotearoa provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share with neighbours the hospitality that is so important to us as followers of Christ. To show our love 'not in word or speech but in deed and truth' (1 John 3:18). I encourage you to reach out to the neighbours and strangers in your community and welcome them into your space, or meet them where they are, and generously share a cup of tea and something to eat.

In particular, please share an Easter bun with your neighbours. The humble bun is such a well-known well-loved Easter tradition, and it is loaded with far more than currants and cinnamon; the cross on top represents our faith, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. It represents suffering and sacrifice yes but also forgiveness, love, life, salvation. Let's celebrate with everyone, let's welcome everyone, and may they see the heart behind your gift.

I encourage you to enter the draw for a \$50 supermarket voucher to buy Easter buns to share with the strangers and neighbours in your community.

Ngā manaakitanga

Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford
Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Parishes, enter the draw for \$50 hot cross bun supermarket vouchers

This year, we are encouraging parishes to share Easter with neighbours. To help you connect with your community we have 10x \$50 supermarket (NW and Pak'nSave) vouchers to give away to Presbyterian and Cooperating parishes. To enter, email your church or church group name, your physical mailing address, and how you will use the voucher to share hot cross Easter buns with your neighbours to: angela@presbyterian.org.nz by 9am, Wed 13 March. Vouchers will be drawn by the Moderator same day.

Ideas for sharing hot cross buns

See this PCANZ [website link](#) for ideas on how to share hot cross buns with your neighbours. They include asking permission to supply hot cross buns to local schools - you might also be allowed to read/perform the Easter story; hot cross buns at community and sporting event, an Easter tea & coffee morning, picnic in the park, BBQ, beach day; hot cross bun in local letterboxes with a note about what Easter means to your church and a list of community services and events your church hosts; gift buns outside your church, shopping centres, libraries, op shops; take hot cross buns to rest homes with hand-drawn Easter drawings and messages from children; host a 'best hot cross bun in town' competition, or Easter art show with a hot cross buns theme; invite neighbours to your church to make hot cross buns or give out ingredients to make them; host a hot cross bun hunt for children; gift buns to your local foodbank...and more!

Neighbours Aotearoa Presbyterian events

See the [PCANZ website](#) for inspiration from parishes that will host or have already hosted Neighbours month events such as the upcoming St Peter's Presbyterian Church Ellerslie 'Picnic in the Park' on 17 March (generously supported by Presbyterian Support Northern and a PressGo Give it a Go grant). And the recent successful Mornington Presbyterian Church shared community lunch, where the community was invited to koha or bring a dish of their favourite food or a cultural dish to share.

SEE MORE ON THE PCANZ WEBSITE: <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-ministers/prescare/neighbours-aotearoa-formerly-neighbours-day/neighbours-aotearoa-2024>