



Message from the Moderator



Christchurch mosque terror attacks

Greetings

We pray for our Presbyterian Church family in Christchurch as they endure another tremendous shake up to their lives that will test their resilience. The attack on folks at worship is a violation of our whole nation. We stand united in Aotearoa. Kia kaha.

Earlier this week, on Tuesday, I was privileged and honoured to represent the Presbyterian Church family, along with selected religious leaders, as guests of Parliament's Speaker of the House.

The prayers, as well as the debate by leaders of political parties - especially the Prime Minister - were both profound and somber. The emotions and grief were overwhelming, with weeping of men, women and children. For a moment, we were a family standing together sharing our sorrow.

We uplift and encourage all the good and loving work carried out by our Presbyterian family in this crisis. There are so many giving unselfishly of your resources, time and energy. We think of our chaplains at St Andrews College and Rangi Ruru, of our churches and schools in the area, and our family in Christchurch. You are in our prayers.

I also want to share that we have been touched by prayers and messages of support from ecumenical partners and denominational leaders from the world over. The message over the page, from Pakistan-based Ecumenical Commission for Human Development, is one of many our Church has received expressing condolences for the victims of this terrible tragedy.

May we be ever thankful for the love and power of God throughout the world.

Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio
Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Dear Rt. Rev. Fakaofu Kaio,

We were with great saddened to hear that 49 people have been killed and at least 20 were wounded in terrorist attacks at the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch and at the mosque in the suburb of Linwood in New Zealand.

On behalf of the Ecumenical Commission for Human Development, a Christian independent, ecumenical advocacy, humanitarian relief and development agency is extending our heartfelt condolences to Aotearoa New Zealand churches, national and local governments and to the people who lost family members and friends.

We kindly ask you to share our message of condolence with your member churches in New Zealand.

Be assured that Aotearoa New Zealand churches and people are in our prayers in this time of sorrow. May the words of the God comfort you and remind you of God's endless mercy:

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrew 4:16

Yours in Christ,

James Rehmat

Executive Director - Ecumenical Commission for Human Development