

## Care of Creation – September 2020

Lockdown gives people time to express their views on Facebook, where I saw some interesting comments. One was critical of the ISIS warriors who leave family and girlfriends to die for Allah believing that they will in another life enjoy the company of beautiful houris; the other showed a Christian coming before St Peter and asking to enter heaven only to be told he was not welcome, coming so early, when he had been given a mask and lockdown instructions and not used them.

All very well to laugh at one another's religious beliefs, but mix in political parties, economics, earthquakes, eruptions, rising sea levels, hurricanes, and locust plagues as well as the sheer poverty of so many and we have a lot to think about and many to bury. COVID-19 has taught us to listen to the scientists who study viruses, but we are slow to learn to listen to those who talk about climate change. Some tell us about temperature changes in the past, some predict what may happen in the far future, but it is the present and near future that needs our urgent attention.

The Auckland Diocese has taken the matter on board but what I read from Cathy Bi-Riley shows that parishes which have members joining her as sustainability champions are mainly talking about what can be done at their local church and in its grounds. NZ Christians In Science (NZCIS) takes a wider view, challenging people to look at what is happening and put it alongside the marvels we see in the world and the question of who is behind it all. There is so much that we do not know, but there is evil and there is truth. There are cities turning to electric vehicles and there is an oil company planning to build a large pipeline through sensitive parts of Africa.

Here in Auckland, Zoom is being used to share ideas and as a way for the diocese and parishes to pray together.

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