

## Christmas Message from EfM Chair

As I write this it's 12 days till Christmas Day. The cake's made, the cards are sent... and I'm chatting to the residents in the rest home I work at about favourite and sad memories of Christmases past, favourite songs or carols and getting ready for the Carols and Readings services I run in the last week of Advent – using a mix of familiar scripture passages and contemporary NZ writings. Think Eileen Duggan, Joy Cowley, Peter Cape. But this year one reading is resonating more than before. American author Madeleine L'Engle's poem *First Coming*. It begins,

*He did not wait till the world was ready  
Till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
And prisoners cried out for release.*

Life was unsettled then, it's unsettled now. One thing we can be sure of is that "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). Or as Eugene Peterson has paraphrased it, "The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out."

As you gear up for however you celebrate Christmas and whoever you do this with, may you be encouraged that the life-light hasn't been put out. God's love, expressed in a child's birth, has not been extinguished. Rest, relax, laugh, cry if needed, pray and read the scriptures of hope, peace, joy and love that are part of God's gift to us. For those of us returning for more study next year with EfM, or beginning the programme, and those of you training to be mentors, for the new groups starting (including our first possible on-Zoom group) may you know the God's hope, peace, joy and love over the summer and beyond.

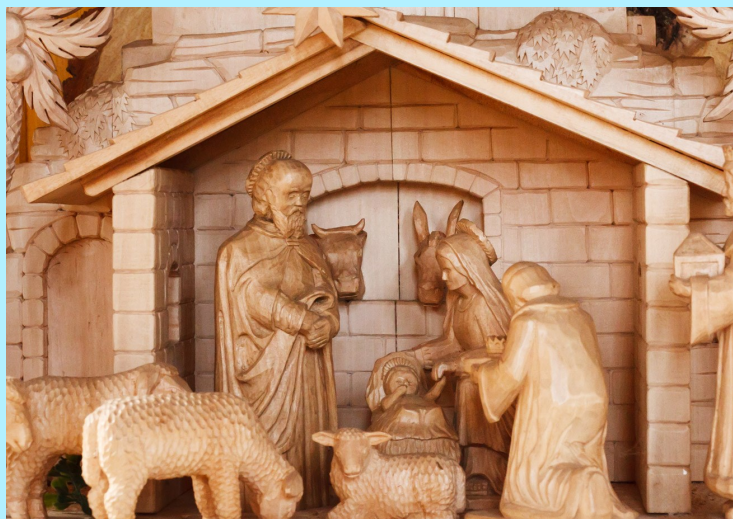
Blessings to you all,

Meri Kirihimete

*Leanne*

Chair

PS the Wellington Western Suburbs group needs at least one other participant. If you know of anyone, contact Mike!



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# EfM Mentor Training

1 pm Fri 2 February – 5 pm Sat 3 February 2024

Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St

Island Bay, Wellington



EfM (Education for Ministry) is a programme of study devised primarily for lay people (though ordained folk benefit from participating too!). It provides four-years of study material at a tertiary level and in a learning environment where the reading and reflection undertaken by the individual members of the group is then reflected on together at weekly group meetings and applied to everyday life and ministry.

EfM is a way to continually deepen the journey with God in the company of a group which provides challenge and support and co-learning opportunities. It has both academic rigour and a holistic, grounded way of applying that rigour to the realities of 21<sup>st</sup> century life, living into what it means to be disciples of Christ in our particular time and context.

To support the life of EfM groups and provide for the possibility of new groups forming we need to have mentors who are trained in the skills needed to facilitate these co-learning groups.

A mentor is not an expert, or a tutor, but a co-learner with group members, who has the added group skills to ensure that a safe, honest, non-judgmental learning environment is fostered.

If you think that you might have what it takes to be a mentor, and/or are interested in stepping into the adventure that is EfM, fill in the [registration form](#) and come along to the training event in Wellington. (If the link doesn't work for you try: [www.efm.org.nz/events](http://www.efm.org.nz/events))

*Coming to the training does not commit you to being a mentor! Come, taste, and see!*

If you have questions or want more information email

[Educationforministrynz@outlook.com](mailto:Educationforministrynz@outlook.com)

**Registrations close on 12 January 2024**

*Please distribute this newsletter widely amongst your networks in the community*

## Certificate Presentations in Hamilton



On Sunday 3 December The Most Reverend Sir David Moxon presented graduation certificates to Evelyn Masoka, June Chestnut and Shirley Arnold at St Peter's Cathedral in Hamilton.

Shirley Arnold said "For me personally, EfM has been a source of growth in my spiritual journey. It has given me an opportunity to lead prayer and worship in our group; to consider and share my spiritual autobiography in our group; to use the EfM Theological

Reflection model to integrate the extensive readings with my daily life and to reassess my personal Theology. Taking my faith in God into my daily life, I have become more reflective about how I live and interact with people. "

## Surplus Books

EfM have a number of books that have been donated by people who did EfM in the past. These are free to a good home but you will need to pay the postage.

### Current Texts

Christianity The First Three Thousand Years - Diarmaid MacCulloch (Year 3)

Theology A Very Short Introduction - David Ford (Year 4)

Mysteries of Faith - Mark McIntosh (Year 4)

The Christian Moral Life Practices of Piety - Timothy Sedgwick (Year 4)

My Neighbor's Faith Peace, Rose and Mobley (Year 4)

### Earlier versions of Current Texts

Introducing the New Testament 1<sup>st</sup> Edition - Mark Powell (currently using 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) - 2 copies

### Former Interlude books

Hospitable Planet Faith, Action and Climate Change - Stephen Jurovics

Life Together - Dietrich Bonhoffer

Life in Christ Practicing Christian Spirituality - Julia Gatta

The Dream of Good - Verna Dozier (2 copies)

The Church Cracked Open – Stephanie Spellers

Faithful Nighbours Christian-Muslim Vision & Practice – multiple authors (2 copies)

We Are theologians – Fredrica Thompsett

### Other Books

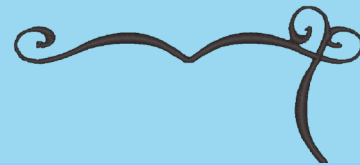
Globalization, Gender and Peacebuilding - Kwok Pui-Lan

The Cross and the Lynching Tree – James Cone

Please contact Michael Crawford-Butler [educationforministrynz@outlook.com](mailto:educationforministrynz@outlook.com) if you are interested in any of these books.

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# Trainers' Corner



## A place to find some ideas for EfM groups

Writing a **Collect**, based very specifically on the images and insights that have come from the reflection:

Structure:

**You** – Addressing God with a particular name

eg. 'Almighty God', 'Playful Creator'

**Who** – Amplification (& motive) – a description of the nature of God

which pertains to this particular prayer

**Do** – Petition – the request that is made to the Divine

**To** – Purpose (& motive) – the effect that we seek

and commit ourselves to participating in

**Through** – Jesus Christ... in the unity of the Holy Spirit...

the relationship of God the Trinity can be addressed here

From the website, LITURGY <http://liturgy.co.nz/reflections/collect>

## Purpose and Structure of the Collect

### The opening prayer at the Eucharist

Too often the collect is treated as merely another nice prayer cluttering the vestibule of the start of our liturgy. Ideally at the Eucharist individuals arrive and are greeted by the presider – whose greeting is returned. Then we sing together. There is little that could be more unifying than this. Then we are called to a moment of shared, deep silence in the presence of the great mystery we call God. This deep silence is concluded, "collected," by the presider praying aloud the collect which we then all affirm with our "Amen."

This is the central dynamic of gathering to hear what the Spirit is saying to us the church through the scriptures proclaimed. The silence is the heart of the collect. The words of the collect are not. The collect concludes our gathering – if there is an allusion to the readings of the day that is bonus, but not essential – particularly with a lectionary which has moved from thematic constraints. The collect, like that other great prayer the Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer), is at the heart of what prayer is for us and so traditionally is addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as a sonnet or a haiku has a particular, recognisable structure, so a collect has a five-fold structure, three parts of which are always present (marked \*):

From the website: ANGLICAN WAY MAGAZINE

<https://anglicanway.org/2014/04/26/the-form-and-structure-of-the-collect/>

*"The final part of a collect is... a sort of concluding doxology or act of worship, as it acknowledges God's eternal Kingship. It also declares the doctrine of the Trinity. If the prayer is addressed to God the Son, it takes the form "who livest and reignest with God the Father in etc." (qui vivis et regnas cum deo Patri in etc.); maintaining its doxological-doctrinal form, but of course not mentioning the name, as the person is being addressed."*

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## Groups for 2024

There will be four groups starting in February 2024.

Three of the groups will be meeting face-to-face. If you are interested in joining one of these groups please contact the mentor:

- Te Aro meets Monday evenings. Mentor: Jean Malcolm [jean@stpeterersonwillis.org.nz](mailto:jean@stpeterersonwillis.org.nz)
- Wellington Western Suburbs. meets Wednesday evenings. Mentor: Leanne Munro [leannemunro55@gmail.com](mailto:leannemunro55@gmail.com)
- Plimmerton meets Thursday afternoons. Mentor: Michael Crawford-Butler [mike.crawfordbutler@gmail.com](mailto:mike.crawfordbutler@gmail.com)

In its 45<sup>th</sup> year in New Zealand Education for Ministry (EfM) is delighted to be making its four year course for lay people available online. In many parishes there are a few people who have enjoyed EfM in the past - the rich understanding of faith, the insights that come from sharing your faith with people from different backgrounds – but there have not been enough people in one area to establish a group.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm EfM will be holding a one hour taster by Zoom.

Registration is required for the meeting. The registration link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81234567890>

The day and time this group meets will be negotiated between those wanting to take part. The mentor will be Raewyn Berkahn [rpberkahn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rpberkahn@xtra.co.nz)



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