

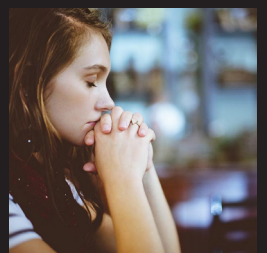
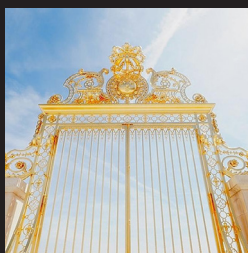
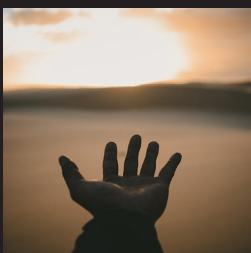
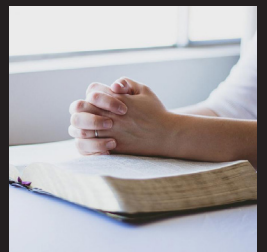
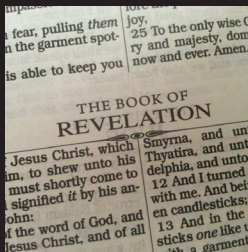
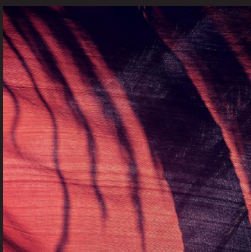
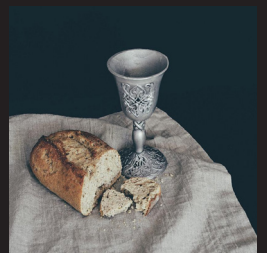


# STIMULUS

THE NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF  
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND PRACTICE

## CONTENTS

### VOL 27, ISSUE 1



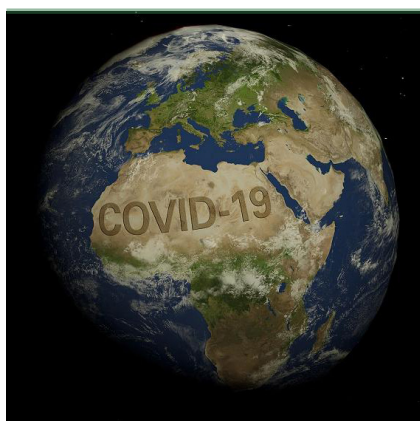


---

## Editorial Issue 1

**Mark Keown**

At the end of March, the Stimulus editorial team of Sarah Penwarden, Fiona Sherwin, and I met and discussed putting together a special edition of Stimulus based around the COVID-19 event. We offer this volume as a gift to readers in the hope that it helps them grapple with the challenge we are all facing.

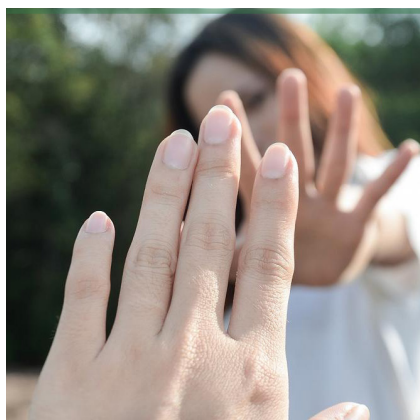


---

## Where is the Living God in the Covid-19 Pandemic? An Appeal for Understanding that Acknowledges that we Live in a Good Creation but One Whose Occasionally Rogue Viruses need Subduing.

**by Bob Robinson**

Where is God in a Coronavirus world? And how do we live wisely in such a world?



---

## The Trinity, Social Distancing, and Presence in Absence.

**by Marty Folsom**

The world is changing. We are being called to keep physical distance in a world that was already relationally distant. Does distance from others mean that we cannot express our caring? Where is God in the social fabric of our unravelling?

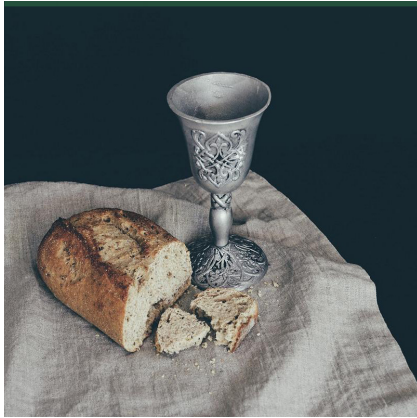


---

## Learning from Bear Hunts, Workouts and Generosity: Noticing Five Ways to Wellbeing in a Pandemic.

**by Lynne Taylor**

The Mental Health Foundation's Five Ways to Wellbeing (connect, give, take notice, keep learning, and be active) are well recognised as contributing positively to mental health.

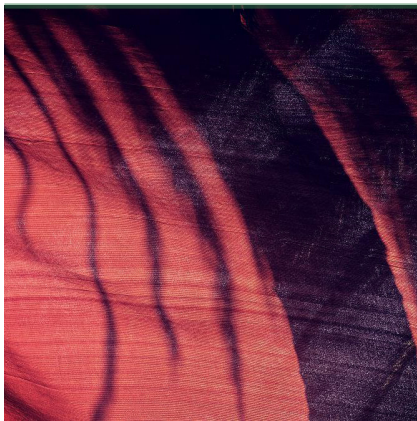


---

## Christ's Body, the Church's Supper, and the Real Presence in Social Distance.

*by Jason Goroncy*

Among other things, COVID-19 has brought with it an invitation to rethink what we imagine a safe society to be.

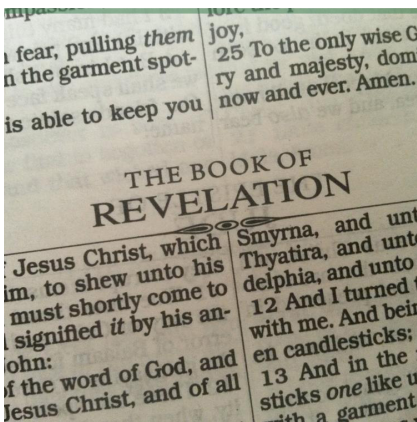


---

## Telos

*by Miriam J. Fisher*

Poem.

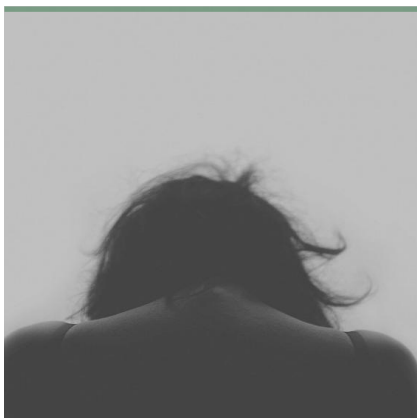


---

## "Out of the Great Ordeal": Reading Revelation in a Global Pandemic.

*by U-Wen Low*

In times of crisis, many turn to the Book of Revelation to search for answers or comfort, hoping that the eschatological prophecies of the text will provide illumination and certainty.



---

## Learning from "J.B." and Job Through Pain and Pandemic: An Overview and Critique of MacLeish's "J.B." in Light of COVID-19

*by WH Chong*

Many of us have been moved and impacted deeply with COVID-19 and its chaotic march across the globe.





---

## In a Hiber-nation

*by Sarah Penwarden*

On 25th March 2020, the New Zealand government declared a State of Emergency. The nation moved to Alert Level 4 and went into lockdown for at least four weeks.

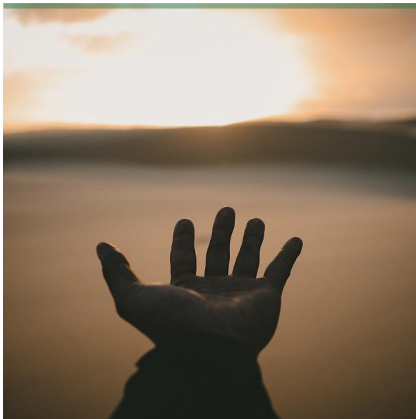


---

## Reach, Reflect, and Rest: An Invitation by St Augustine from Psalm 4

*by Elliott Ku*

“The human race is admonished to turn to God, even at the eleventh hour, from its love of this world” (Enarrat. Ps., 4.4)

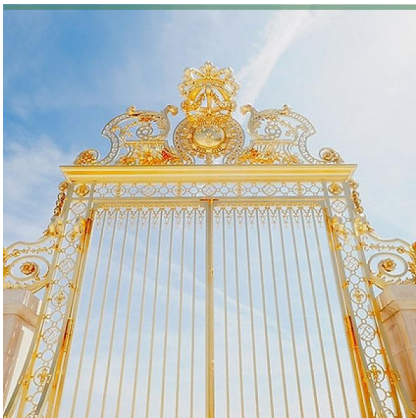


---

## Fear or Faith

*by Chris Seglenieks*

For many people, this is a time of fear.



---

## Saint Imulus is positive

*by Stimulus*

Saint Peter has been so busy recently that I've been rostered to provide him some additional assistance on Pearly Gates duty. It sure makes a change from my current day job, overseeing gold supplies for street maintenance.



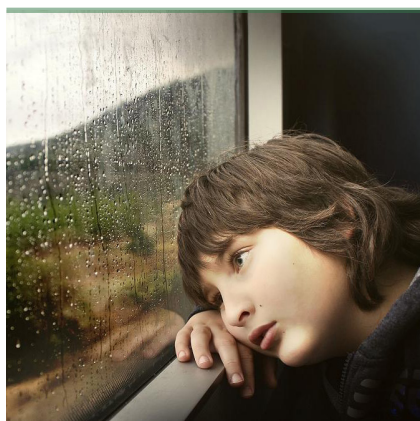


---

## In the Light of COVID-19: On Doubt, Wars and Dangerous Memory

*by Gwyn McClelland*

"If everything has become doubtful, the doubting at least is certain and real," wrote Hannah Arendt in 1958.

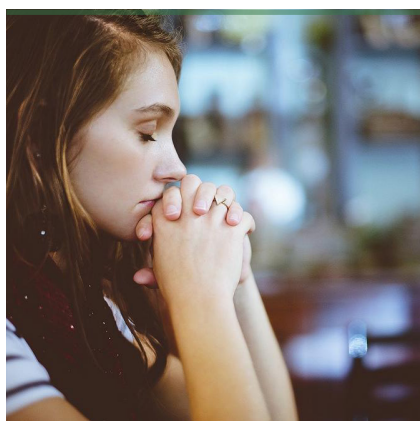


---

## Exploring the Practice of Holy Waiting with Augustine's De Patientia

*by Luke Collings*

The extent and pace of COVID-19 infection internationally during early 2020 has necessitated the self-isolation of the entire populace of many nations within an extraordinarily short period.



---

## Where is God's Blessing in a Pandemic?

*by Julia van den Brink*

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

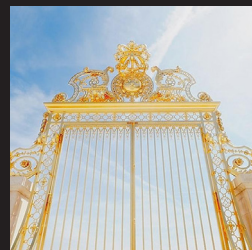
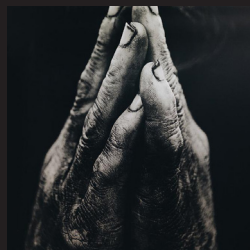
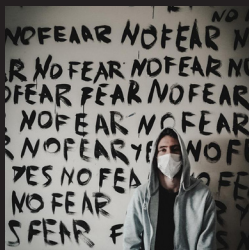
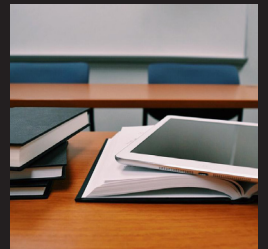
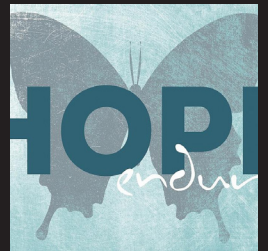


# STIMULUS

THE NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF  
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND PRACTICE

## CONTENTS

### VOL 27, ISSUE 2





---

## Editorial Issue 2

***Sarah Penwarden***

In this volume, scholars have gone to many different historical and contemporary places to draw strength, wisdom and knowledge to help us in this crisis.



---

## A Covid Christology: Art, Atonement and the Forming of the Social Body in a Time of Pandemic

***by Steve Taylor***

The highpoint of the Christian calendar, the festival of Easter, fell in a lockdown period this year.

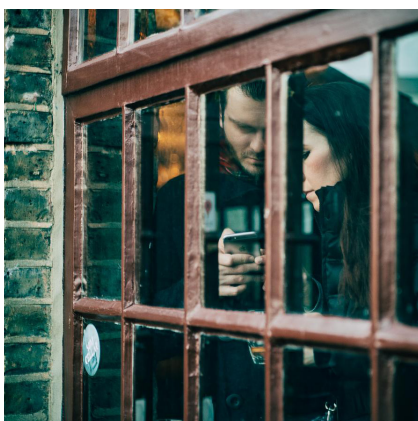


---

## COVID-19 – An Invitation to Ecological Repentance?

***by Andrew Shepherd***

During the COVID-19 Level 4 period of imposed isolation I found myself reflecting on the parallels between the biblical story of Noah and the flood (Genesis 6–9) and our contemporary global situation.



---

## Numbers

***by Yael Klangwisan***

A found poem based on the article, "On the wait, and the weight" by Leonie Hayden





---

## Notes of Hope in the Face of Suffering (Rom 8:18–39)

*by Mark J. Keown*

As I write, the COVID-19 pandemic is sweeping through the world taking lives and causing pain and fear. Such an event raises the question of hope in the midst of suffering.



---

## “To those who are shut up from our Society”: Symon Patrick’s Pastoral Ministry in London During the Great Plague of 1665

*by Ian Maddock*

So widespread was the contagion, one observer reported, that the city’s population began “to fear whom they converse withal, and deal withal, lest they should have come out of infected places.”



---

## Wilderness

*by Wendy Hansen*

Poem.



---

## The Proof is in the Providence

*by Myk Habets*

It is not uncommon—one might even say it is normal—that in cases of trauma, suffering, and tragedy, people re-evaluate their priorities, commitments, and convictions.

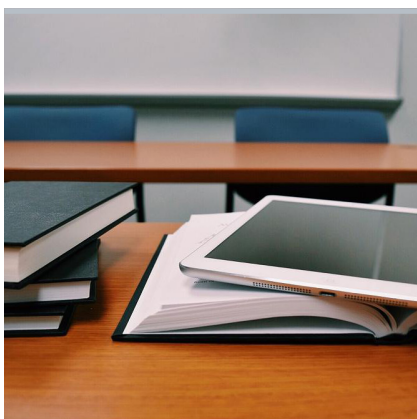


---

## What Sort of People do we Want to Be? A Review Article with Reflections on the COVID-19 Crisis

*by Philip Church*

This arrived in my inbox last week: Few could have predicted that we would be reaching Easter this year with more than half the world in either partial or full lockdown. Climate scientists predict that 2020 could see the biggest fall in carbon emissions since World War Two. Yet without structural change, experts warn that these reductions could be short-lived.



---

## Mā whero, mā pango, ka oti te mahi: With red and with black the work will be done

*by Philippa Isom*

“To steer correctly, a system with inherent physical momentum needs to be looking decades ahead.”

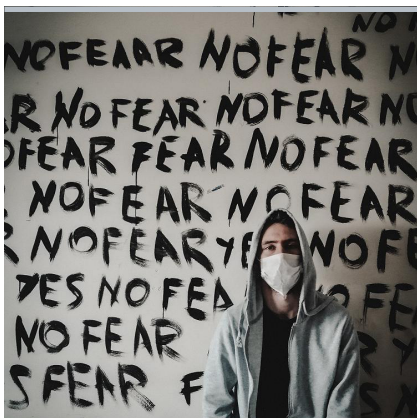


---

## Corona on the Side of the Road. Reflections on the Good Samaritan Re-read

*by William Loader*

Reading: Luke 10:25-37 Jesus told imaginative stories to address real issues of his day. One of these was the parable of the Good Samaritan.

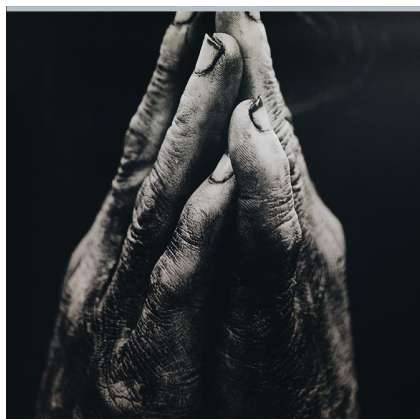


---

## Narratives of Despair, Imaginations of Hope

*by Sam Burrows*

For Christians, hope is ultimately hope in Christ. The hope that he really is what for centuries we have been claiming he is. The hope that despite the fact that sin and death still rule the world, he somehow conquered them. The hope that in him and through him all of us stand a chance of somehow conquering them too. The hope that at some unforeseeable time and in some unimaginable way he will return with healing in his wings.

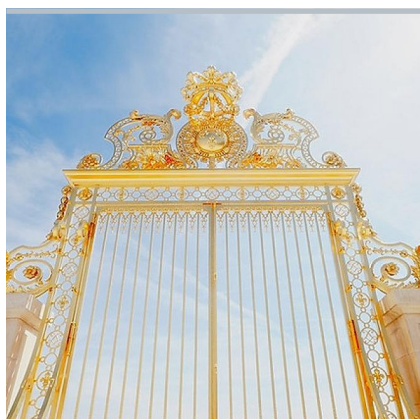


---

## Our “Spiritual War-Work” in the Age of COVID-19

*by Robyn Wrigley-Carr*

During World War 2, the British, Anglican, mystical theologian and spiritual director, Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941), encouraged a small “Prayer Group” to pray for world leaders, calling it their “spiritual war-work.”

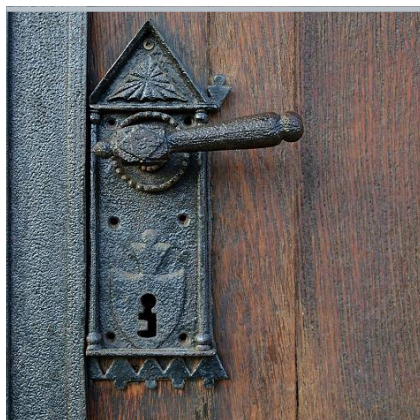


---

## ST Imulus: Jobs Galore

*by Stimulus*

I ran into Saint Job recently – a guy from the earlier times, and carrying a rather unusual name in these parts.

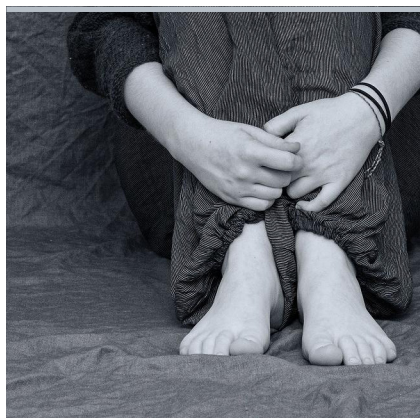


---

## “Neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem” (John 4:21): A Reflection on the Closure of Churches in the Face of COVID-19.

*by Francis Innocent Ootobo*

The church, as the people of God, is like a giant octopus reaching out. The people of God spread out from the centre into the community in all directions. The source of our strength is the gathering where we express our identity in word and sacrament like the head of the octopus.



---

## Receptions of Job and Theologies of Suffering

*by Nicholas List*

In the midst of crisis, whether personal or cosmic, many have found solidarity in the voice of Job.



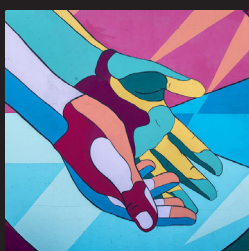
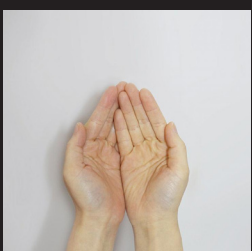
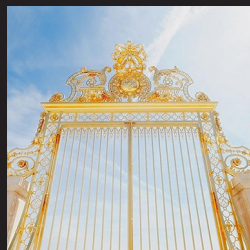
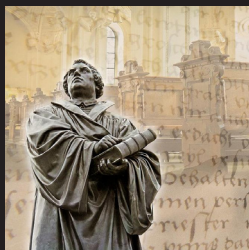
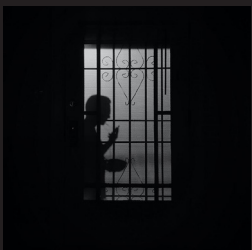
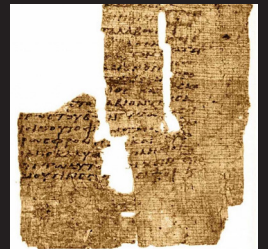
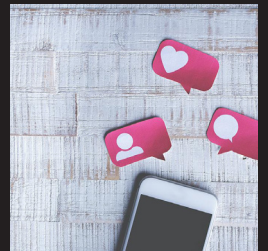
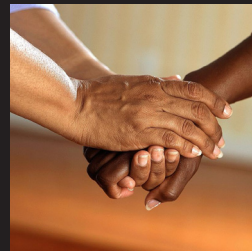
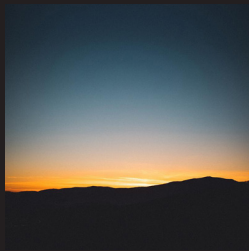
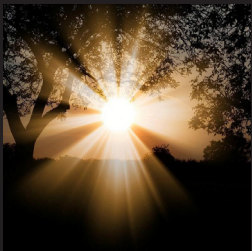


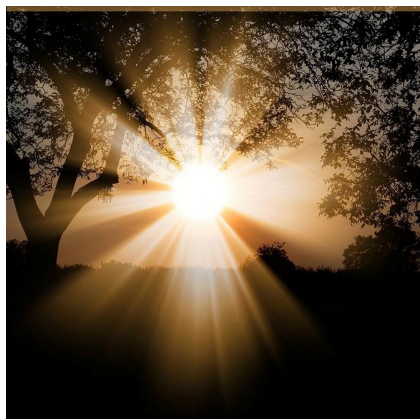
# STIMULUS

THE NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF  
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND PRACTICE

## CONTENTS

### VOL 27, ISSUE 3



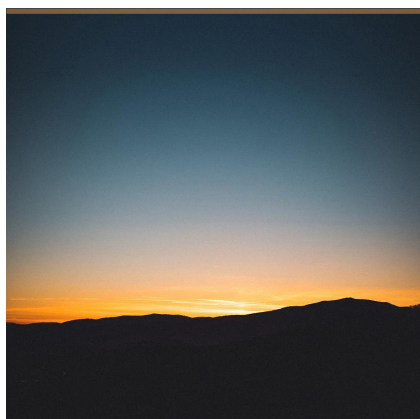


---

## Editorial Issue 3

*Fiona Sherwin*

This issue—the last issue specifically dedicated to COVID-19—has articles from various perspectives: from our traditional theological disciplines of Christian spirituality, contextual theology, practical theology, systematic theology, biblical studies and church history, to vocational ministries found in community and mission.



---

## A Beautiful Light: An Aesthetic Reading of Isaiah 60–62

*by Ryan Lang*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you (Isa 60:1).[1]

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted ... (Isa 61:1).



---

## A Pandemic, Science, and Faith

*by D. Gareth Jones*

From the perspective of a biomedical scientist, the COVID-19 pandemic raises questions about the relationship between science and faith.

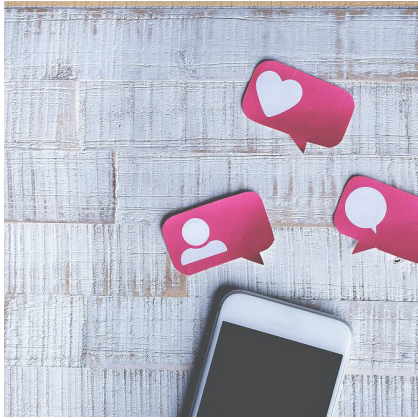


---

## A Gift of Friendship

*by Michael D. O'Neil*

At the beginning of lent in 2020 I began an Ignatian retreat-in-daily-life, using the First Spiritual Exercises developed by Michael Hansen



---

## Pastoral Considerations for a Pandemic

*by Tanya Wittwer*

“Providing pastoral leadership in a pandemic” doesn’t appear in the handbooks of our seminaries and colleges.

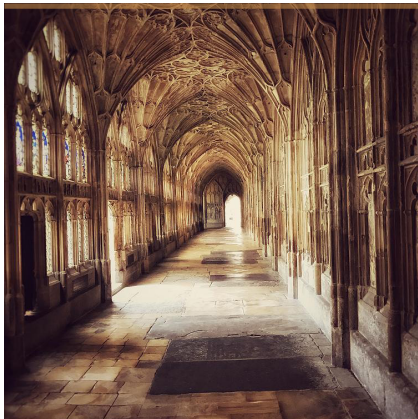


---

## 19/20

*by Miriam J. Fisher*

Poem.

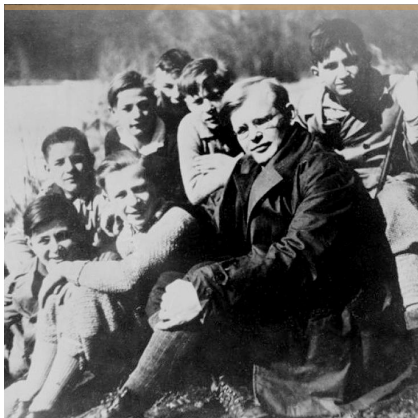


---

## Rhythm and Redemption: Lessons from the Monastics about Life in Confinement

*by Thomas Kimber*

From the outside, the monastery may seem like a prison.



---

## Coping with Coronavirus Disappointments: Five Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*by Brian S. Rosner*

A version of this article was published on the ABC Religion & Ethics website, Monday 30 March, 2020, <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/coronavirus-coping-with-disappointments-through-dietrich-bonhoe/12103822>.



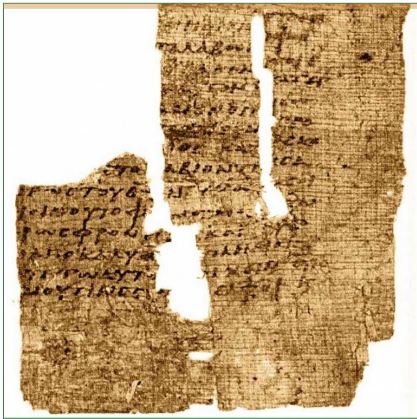


---

## What to do with the Stranger?

*by Wendy Taylor*

Change has accelerated in our globalised world.

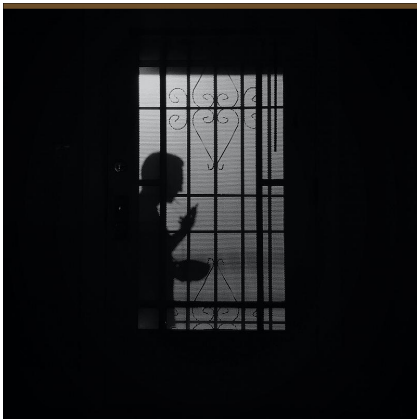


---

## Reading Philippians in a Pandemic

*by Derek Tovey*

In recent weeks, I have been reading through Paul's letter to the Philippians. It is interesting how our current context, living as we are through a global pandemic of COVID-19 and its effects, influences and affects the way that this text speaks.

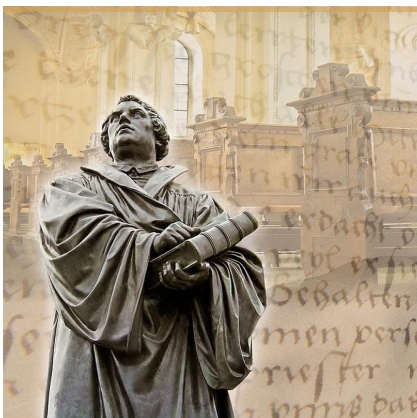


---

## Pastoral Care from Prison

*by Geoff New*

On Monday 23 March, the New Zealand government announced that the country was in Alert Level 3 and with forty-eight hours' notice, would go to Alert Level 4.

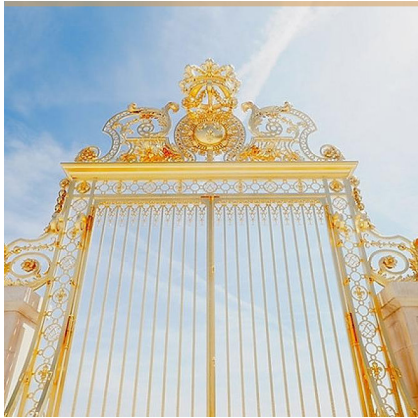


---

## Why Did Luther Not Flee From the Deadly Plague?

*by Nathan Runham*

Martin Luther lived through the plague. He did so because he deliberately chose not to flee from it. Unlike the COVID-19 pandemic that we face today, the Bubonic plague that Luther endured was an epidemic.



## ST Imulus: Friday Drinks

### *Stimulus*

TGIF (with a nod in the direction of the Throne Room, because it was the Boss who created Fridays in the first place); it sure has been quite a week.



## “For such a time as this:” A Clarion Call in a Time of Crisis

*by Tekweni Chataira*

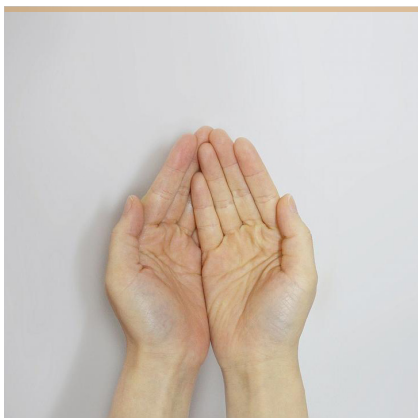
Understanding the perilous situation of the Jews is crucial in interpreting Esther 4. Jews had been taken into Persia as exiles (2:6). They were no longer in their land where the Temple and everything connected to the worship of God was based.[3] As a people, Jews were vulnerable.



## Understanding the Pain of Identity Loss Brought on by COVID-19 Through the Lens of Genesis 3 and 11

*by Alan Stanley*

COVID-19 has stripped many of us of all but essential needs.



## Structured for Mission: The gift of COVID-19

*by Rosemary Dewerse and Ruth Osborne*

As the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic the temptation could be to “pour energy into obsessing how to change structures and remake institutions.”



---

## Cyprian's Response to an Epidemic

*by Sean du Toit*

Societies of the first centuries of the common era were no strangers to epidemics.