

Dear Parish Leader

### **Resources for Lent**

The Presbyterian Church has long placed a priority on children, young people and families. This commitment has been reflected in recent years through the Kids Friendly initiative.

Since its inception, this same priority has also been at the heart of the social service organisation founded by the Church, Presbyterian Support.

Recognising this synergy, the Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Support have embarked on a new partnership, PresCare, for an initial period of five years. It seeks to harness the collective strength of the Presbyterian movement in the interests of New Zealand's children, young people and families.

This Lenten pack is the first fruit of this partnership. It provides resources to help us explore how our shared faith and commitment can respond to the needs, and nurture the wellbeing, of children and families in Aotearoa.

### **Meditation Booklet**

In the pack you will find a collection of meditations offering a focus for reflection, one for each day in Lent. The meditations draw together biblical and other insights alongside different perspectives on the place and plight of children and families in our world.

Twenty copies of the booklet have been included in this pack, but if you need more just let the Assembly Office know and they'll send them out to you right away.

### **Worship Resources**

In addition, PresCare is making some worship resources available on the Church's website. These will help provide a focus on the needs of children and families during Lent. A link to these resources will be sent out soon.

## **Public Campaign**

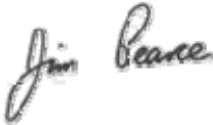
At the same time Presbyterian Support is also working to raise public awareness of the need to nurture our nation's children and inviting support for its Family Works service. A DVD of the television campaign that will begin screening in March is included here as a special preview for church goers, along with envelopes for people who would like to contribute.

However you use these resources, we hope these offerings will provide a way to remind your congregation as we travel towards Easter of our common calling to extend Christian care to the families within our land whose lives lack the warmth and joy so many of us take for granted.

Signed



The Right Rev Peter Cheyne,  
Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand



Jim Pearce,  
Chair, National Council, Presbyterian Support New Zealand