

Reformed Congregations of New Zealand in Carterton



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Bulletin for Sunday 19 April 2026

A warm welcome to our time of worship!

The Blindness Of The Human Heart

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

"They know not what they do." This does not mean that the enemies of Christ were ignorant of the fact of His crucifixion. They did know full well that they had cried out "Crucify Him". They did know full well that their vile request had been granted them by Pilate. They did know full well that He had been nailed to the tree for they were eye-witnesses of the crime. What then did our Lord mean when He said, "They know not what they do"? He meant they were ignorant of the enormity of their crime. They "knew not" that it was the Lord of glory they were crucifying. The emphasis is not on "They know not" but on "they know not what they do".

And yet they ought to have known. Their blindness was inexcusable. The Old Testament prophecies which had received their fulfillment in Him were sufficiently plain to identify Him as the Holy One of God. His teaching was unique, for His very critics were forced to admit "Never man spake like this Man" (John 7:46). And what of His perfect life! He had lived before men a life which had never been lived on earth before. He pleased not Himself. He went about doing good. He was ever at the disposal of others. There was no self-seeking about Him. His was a life of self-sacrifice from beginning to end. His was a life ever lived to the glory of God. His was a life on which was stamped heaven's approval, for the Father's voice testified audibly, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." No, there was no excuse for their ignorance. It only demonstrated the blindness of their hearts. Their rejection of the Son of God bore full witness, once for all, that the carnal mind is "enmity against God". How sad to think this terrible tragedy is still being repeated! Sinner, you little know what you are doing in neglecting God's great salvation. You little know how awful is the sin of slighting the Christ of God and spurning the invitations

of His mercy. You little know the deep guilt which is attached to your act of refusing to receive the only One who can save you from your sins. You little know how fearful is the crime of saying, "We will not have this Man to reign over us." You know not what you do. You regard the vital issue with callous indifference. The question comes today as it did of old, "What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ?" For you have to do something with Him: either you despise and reject Him, or you receive Him as the Saviour of your soul and the Lord of your life.

But, I say again, it seems to you a matter of small moment, of little importance, which you do. For years you have resisted the strivings of His Spirit. For years you have shelved the all-important consideration. For years you have steeled your heart against Him, closed your ears to His appeals, and shut your eyes to His surpassing beauty. Ah! you know not WHAT you do. You are blind to your madness. Blind to your terrible sin. Yet are you not excuseless? You may be saved now if you will. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." O come to the Saviour now and say with one of old, "Lord, that I might receive my sight."

Arthur W. Pink

From Your Consistory

- o Consistory has received the request from David and Ruth Marchant to become members of our congregation. Upon discussion with them, we warmly welcome them into the full membership of our church family unless there are any lawful objections to this. If no lawful objections are received by the elders, they will be given the opportunity to make the confession of their faith on Sunday 3 May in the morning service.
- o Thanks to all they young and older ones who participated in Wednesday evening's discussion forum. It was a great start in our efforts to have a more open dialog as congregation. As consistory we will process the feedback and suggestions as we lead you as a church family. Our next congregational potluck and discussion evening is proposed for July 15, DV.

Prayer / Thanksgiving / Requests

- o Hank and Sarah Groeneweg left this past week for Canada for an extended period.
- o Continue to remember our suffering family and friends with ongoing concerns for health and life.

- We give thanks for Arnold and Mary's engagement and encourage everyone to keep them in their prayers as they embark on their journey toward marriage.

Notices

- Psalter for the children: 384:1.
- This Sunday:
 - Elder led services
 - Sunday school at the Little Haven at 230pm
 - Singing in the rest homes: Carter Court at 230pm and Roseneath at 315pm
 - Prayer Fellowship at 530pm
 - Book discussion at 8pm
- Tuesday 21 April: Ladies Bible Study on 1 Peter at Josje's place, 9.30am
- Wednesday 22 April:
 - Ladies Bible Study on 1 Peter at church, 9.30am
 - Bible Study on Amos at church, 7.30pm
- Saturday 25 April: Prayer Gathering in Masterton at the site of the old Masterton town hall, 7pm.

Dear church family,

I will be preaching for about 30 minutes on Tuesday evening as part of my study. You are most welcome to join me in church at 6pm, I would appreciate your presence.

Warmly,
Johan

Future Dates, Lord willing

Sunday 19 May	Elder led services
Tuesday 5 May	Catechism Class Year 11-13
Sunday 10 May	Preparatory Sunday (AM)
Thursday 14 May	Ascension Day service
Sunday 17 May	Lord's Supper Sunday
20 May, 17 June, 1 July	Leadership Course
Wednesday 24 June	Topic on Covenant Theology