



11 October 2020 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Pastor's Desk

The modern challenge is to be an authentic, autonomous individual. The desire for authenticity and differentiation is most often expressed in the cars we drive and the clothes we wear, yet when one looks at contemporary cars, they all look and function alike because most of them are the same. Clothing, too, has always been of a period, fashion, or mode and choosing to wear clothes that are out-of-fashion, as a fashion statement or statement of individuality, can be just another trend.

In contemporary thinking the individual, fully actualised, is the greatest example of freedom. Independence and greatness grow the more the individual is set free from the prison of rules, conviction, family, and religion. The phenomenon of modern education has schooled the western mind to orchestrate and then enjoy its freedom, without recourse to social or religious rules, creating the person who is totally free, self-determined, whose greatness is their *individuum*.

For this worldview God is a problem because the notion of a transcendent God is seen as the denial of true autonomy. God is the myth that enslaves generations and is either co-opted, as in the United States' "Christian West" or Iran's "Islamic East" —where "god" functions as a gloss for exclusory political and social structures, from education to the military to capital punishment— or in secular, modern New Zealand where God is excluded from political and social discourse in order to ensure true freedom and authentic choice.

With the ontic God out of the way, political expediency or individual choice are divinized. The political and social myths of "the choice" as the source of authentic meaning or being (*individuum*) are central. Religious people are not immune. The power of "the choice", used by religious people, reduces the transcendent God to a privatised function of *their* personal choice, where they use religious rituals and language to express "who they are". Every choice is a calculated choice that does not rely for its meaning, or being (ontology), on meaning beyond itself because "the choice" is essentially egotistical and ideological.

With individual choice idolised to such an extent, individual freedom becomes rampant and, ironically, the insane desire for

individuality tends to lead everyone to desire the same thing. Look at the use of tattoos and piercing. In the quest to be individual, whole generations carry the same sign—captivity to meaning though mimicry, as their "individual" desire seeks false individuality in the imitation of others.

In our country, the need to remove constraint and create a nation of pure individuals drives the proposition that abortion and euthanasia are moral and social values to be acquired, for the good of the nation, and defended on the basis of the necessity of choice. Choice here is not moral choice; it is not the choice between two goods—to *save* the life of the mother the child must be aborted, or to *save* the child, the mother must be allowed to die. Rather, "choice" expresses arbitrary or situational choice, as when buying a product—between a red one and a blue one. Unlike moral choice, where meaning and being met in an unavoidable reality and authentic decision-making is required, arbitrary or situational choice reflects the commodification of meaning and being, commodifying even choice itself.

In a world where the *individuum* reigns supreme, the possibility of a transcendent God is impossible because the notion of God brings constraining prohibitions that chaff against modern individuality and its essential presumption of individual choice. Secular modernity sees itself as rescuing the modern person from their submission to constraint and sees a transcendent God is one-competitor-too-many.

In the pursuit of individual choice, the modern, authentic, choosing person stumbles into the myth of their own reality—the myth of their own freedom. To be an authentic individual, they must convince themselves that they are totally free of constraint, totally free to choose.

Where is God in this? Clearly God cannot compete with individuals who are gods themselves and so God becomes a "process of dying" for the modern person. God, who will not stand as rival but who waits, watching as Otello kills his beloved Desdemona in a lamentable ending that the audience, if attuned to the story, should have seen coming.

Fr Joe Grayland

Prayer Intentions

We Pray for Our Deceased: RIP: Fr. John Morrison (ChCh), Romeo Plamio (Philippines) and JoMie Hirst (Taranaki)

Mass intentions: Eternal **rest** grant unto them, O Lord, and **let** perpetual light shine upon them. **May the souls** of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, **rest in peace.**

Special Prayers: For those suffering with psychological illnesses and their families.



We pray for: Barbara & Graeme Younger, Bernadette Conlon, Catherine Walsh, Chris Kleinsman, David Maeguard, Diane Stubbs, Deborah Green, Fiona Hurly, Evie Feierabend, Fr Damian Caccioppoli SM, Ian Sutherland, Josie Conlon, Bernice OBeirne, John Pepperell, June MacMillan, Kathleen Butturini, Kia Reyes, Malia Mavaega, Marian Carey, Maureen Murphy, Maureen Watts, Maria Pascoe, Mike Manson, Mikulas Oros, Melva Widdowson, Michael Quirk, Pat Kauri, Nicola Burmeister, Paul McRae, Peter Morrison-Story, Pippa Richards, Raymond Jones, Romuald Rudzki, Rebecca Lauvi, , Rose Waldvogel, Steve Horgan, Stephen Caccioppoli, Tony Murphy, Tony Winchcombe, Vinnie Carroll, William Lemmon, Anna & John Feldberg, Mick Spring, Mike Spring, Margaret & John Maskill, Tyler, Allan and Wayne.



Special Notices

Bishops' 2020 Election Statement-Whakapuaki Pōti and Be Informed about the End of Life Choice Act.

PDF copy of Bishops' 2020 [Election Statement](#)

The NZCBC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicNZ/>

Catholic Bishops' Election [Online Media Statement](#)

Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum and more:

www.nathaniel.org.nz, <http://www.nathaniel.org.nz/euthanasia>

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/valuing-the-vulnerable-is-the-theme-for-respect-life-sunday-2020/>

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nathaniel-euthanasia-briefs/>



Next weekend (17/18 October) our parish will be holding the Pontifical Mission (MISSIO-NZ) Church Appeal. This year we are invited to partner with the needy Church in the Philippines. They reach out to those who have been affected by poverty and disability. They give them hope and support to live a fulfilling life.

Zyrhrie Costales is a seven years old girl but weighs only 7kgs when the team of Sr Maris found her. In recent months Zyrhrie has also been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The reach-out program of the diocese of San Jose, Nueva Ecija in the Philippines led by the Canossian Sisters and their teams worked hard to help bring integral development of mind, body, and soul of the children of the Diocese. Zyrhrie represents the many children who longs to live with top health. The Missionary Canossian Sisters and their team need your help.

Next week you will be offered the opportunity to personally partner with the Church in the Philippines and other countries. Your gifts will specifically be directed to support communities and child-focused integral programs. May your generosity be an expression of your care for those less privileged. May your gifts be an expression of your response. Give from your heart. (09) 489 6549

Please Note: **Memorial Acclamation said during Masses in October:**

So parishioners can respond in unison each month we will alternate these responses starting with:
"We proclaim your Death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!"

Reflection – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 25.6-10a

2nd Reading: Philippians 4.10-14, 19-20

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22.1-14

Responsorial Psalm:

I shall live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life.

NOTICES:

For more in-depth news see our [Online Newsletter](#) or the Parishes Noticeboard.

† **St Vincent de Paul:** We still need children's toys please remember us when cleaning out.

ROOM TO RENT NEEDED: I am hoping to find decent accommodation in Palmerston North. I am a staunch Catholic and I live in Christchurch but I am coming to Palmerston North to work at UCOL in early November. I require accommodation for the school terms, returning home for school holidays. I cannot afford to pay as I also have to support my wife and three children in Christchurch. We are eventually planning to relocate to Palmerston North when our children finish school at the end of next year. Please contact me, Kevin via email: flyingpig64@hotmail.com if you can help. Thank you.

† **Pilgrimage to Jerusalem:** St. Mary's Parish PN is planning a minibus day trip up the Whanganui River to Jerusalem on Saturday, 7th November. There will probably be a small cost for bus fare. Please phone St Mary's office 358 5614 to register your interest.

† **LOLO Greeters** need to pick up their rosters in the church foyer.

† **LOLO Planned Giving** envelopes for the next gifting year are available in the gathering area today. Please collect yours asap. Your continued support of our parish life through your donations of talents, time and money is very much appreciated.

† Attention all **Junior Youth** group participants, as it is the school holidays, youth group is NOT on. Have a great holiday and we will see you again in term 4! Stay blessed, Bridget K. bkelly@pndiocese.org.nz

† **Let us get to know the bible.** Come and join us over a cuppa and enjoying the Word and being encouraged at 540 Albert Street, 1:15pm each Tuesday till school pickup. **Enquires:** Basia McIntosh 02108203750 BMcintosh@pndiocese.org.nz

11 October	9:30am	Cathedral – First Holy Communion and every Sunday until 8 November.
11 October		Respect Life Sunday. Catholic.org.nz have some good resources available for use at RespectLifeSunday
11 October	6:00pm	As we celebrate the month of rosary, Blessed Virgin Mary will be visiting our homes. Please RSVP to Maricar Dongon 021 149 5700. Rosary after 6pm Mass at the Cathedral
13 October	5:15pm	SVP Conference meeting: Cathedral Lounge. All welcome
14 October	10:00am	LOLO – Anointing Mass followed by morning tea. Please phone parish office 06 358 3667 if you would like to attend but need transport or know of someone who might need transport.
16 October	12:05pm	Cathedral – Hospitality after Friday Mass
16 October	1:30pm	Cathedral – Praying the Sunday Gospel
16 October	1:00pm	St. Mary's Foxton – Rosary every Friday afternoon at 1pm
17 October	9:00am	Praise and Worship: A teaching with an experience of the Holy Spirit. Workshop presentation by Mike & Wilma Conroy & Theresa Goulding. LOLO Church , Shamrock St, PN culminating in Vigil Mass 5.30pm. Please bring something to share for lunch. A Koha will be appreciated. John Hammond 027 688 7750.
18 October	6:00pm	As we celebrate the month of rosary, Blessed Virgin Mary will be visiting our homes. Please RSVP to Maricar Dongon 021 149 5700. Rosary after 6pm Mass at the Cathedral
24 October	10:30am	Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Finish 4:00pm. Fee: \$60. For more information and registration: Email info@studyjoy.nz or Register Online
25 October (Start)	10:00am	Ignatian Spirituality NZ - 6 day Residential Silent Individually Guided Retreat (ending 30 October 4:00pm). St. Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Auckland. Cost is \$770. Apply chair@ignatianspirituality.nz
28 October	5:30pm	LOLO First Holy Communion Information Evening in the OLOL church Gathering Area. Preparation Sessions will be each Sunday (1, 8 & 15 November) after 9:30am.
1 November		Sacred Heart, Rongotea. are celebrating 125 years in 2020. Further details to follow. Please watch this space.
22 November	9:30am	LOLO First Holy Communion Celebration – Feast of Christ the King.

† **CathNews** – This Catholic News has focus on New Zealand and the South Pacific – read online [CathNews New Zealand](#)

† **NZ Catholic** – Free online while we are in Alert Level 2 – [NZ Catholic](#).

Items for our Newsletters: Please either email to info@lourdesparish.nz or drop into the Cathedral office, all newsletter notices by 12 noon each Wednesday.