



13 September 2020 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Pastor's Desk

In *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) Pope Francis wrote that “true openness involves remaining steadfast in one’s deepest convictions, clear and joyful in one’s own identity, while at the same time being ‘open to understanding those of the other party’ and ‘knowing that dialogue can enrich each side’” (251). This balance is a constitutive feature of Christian faith.

Jesus, and the church are always located in the real world of human culture, language, and politics. In this diverse world faith comes to birth and the church exists. For many of us in a strongly secular culture, where religion is seen as unnecessary, we ask “how can we be faithful Christians and believing citizens?”

In some countries the answer is a violent adhesion to a fundamentalist biblical worldview that excludes many so the “sacred few” will be safe. In others, Christians become a quite hidden minority that enables a privatised religion, while in others the price of freedom is silence.

At the University of Regensburg in 2006 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that violence is incompatible with the nature of God and with the nature of reason: “the truly divine God is the God who has revealed himself as *logos* (Word of God) and, as *logos*, has acted and continues to act lovingly (agape) on our behalf.” Here Pope Benedict indirectly united *logos* to *agape* and reason to nonviolence. Benedict reminds us of St. Augustine’s epistemological premise: “*Non intratur in veritatem nisi per caritatem*” - One does not enter truth except through charity.

Caritatem (charity) is Augustine’s reference to *Agape* – self-giving love - at the heart of the Cross and the Eucharist. *Agape* makes it possible for the Word (*Logos*) of God, which is at the heart of the Christian faith, to remain open to the modern world and not slide into unyielding fundamentalism or ashamed belief.

Pope Francis has said that “God manifests himself in historical revelation, in history. Time initiates processes, and space crystallizes them. God is in history, in the processes.” He reminds us that faith is not a “thing” out there, unrelated to life; faith is lived by believers, so it takes on many forms and is lived to varying degrees of intensity – but it is always lived against one criterion: the criterion of love.

Christian faith must be prepared to give up all forms of rigidity and become a *process of discernment* in the world, in culture and in history. Pope Francis describes this process as welcoming “differing currents of thought in philosophy, theology and pastoral practice” (EG 40). Jesus, who shapes Christians to live their faith, shapes us from within a relationship of unfolding mystery – for us it is an ongoing process of becoming open to the presence of God. Jesus is not a “monolithic dogma”.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis writes of the need for the Church, individually and as a community of believers “to grow in her (our/my) interpretation of the revealed Word and in her (our/my) understanding of truth.”

Then speaking to each of us directly he writes: “For those who long for a monolithic body of doctrine guarded by all and leaving no room for nuance, this might appear as undesirable and leading to confusion...[because] in this way, we hold fast to a formulation while failing to convey its substance. This is the greatest danger. Let us never forget that ‘the expression of truth can take different forms. The renewal of these forms of expression becomes necessary for the sake of transmitting to the people of today the Gospel message in its unchanging meaning’.” (EG 40-41)

Fr Joe Grayland

Prayer Intentions

We Pray for Our Deceased: RIP:

Gabrielle Mullins, Mervyn Pyne (Judy Nixon’s brother) and Garry O’Neill

Mass intentions: John Hannifan (A07/09), Ted Richards (A07/09)

Special Prayers for all those suffering with psychological illnesses and their families

We pray for: Andre Griffin, Audrey Murphy, Bettie Beech, Barbara & Graeme Younger, Bernadette

Conlon, Catherine Walsh, Chris Kleinsman, David Maeguard, Diane Stubbs, Fiona Hurlly, Evie Feierabend, Ian Sutherland, Josie Conlon, Bernice O’Beirne, John Pepperell, June MacMillan, Janice Williams, Kathleen Butturini, Kia Reyes, Malia Mavaega, Marian Carey, Maureen Murphy, Maureen Watts, Maria Pascoe, Fr Michael Lloyd, Mike Manson, Mikulas Oros, Melva Widdowson, Michael Quirk, Pat Kauri, Nicola Burmeister, Paul McRae, Peter Morrison-Story, Raymond Jones, Romuald Rudzki, Rebecca Lauvi, Romeo Plamio, Rose Waldvogel, Steve Horgan, Tony Murphy, Tony Winchcombe, Vinnie Carroll, William Lemmon, Anna & John Feldberg, Mick Spring, Mike Spring, Margaret & John Maskill, Tyler, Allan and Wayne..



Special Notices

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

So parishioners can respond in unison each month we will alternate these responses starting with:
“*Save us, Saviour of the World, for by your death and resurrection you have set us free!*”

Marriage Preparation Course:

We are calling all couples wishing to get married prior to October 2021 to enrol for a Marriage Preparation course. We hope to hold this in October. Please notify your Parish office. Thank you!

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

With the Covid 19 lockdown in NZ the Good Friday collection was postponed to Sunday September 13th. Today, the ancient but fragile Christian communities in Jerusalem and the Holy Land face harassment yet they remain courageous in their worship and charity. The Good Friday collection supports them and their schools, health clinics, community sports facilities, and church upkeep. Scholarships are also provided for Bethlehem University (for Christians and Muslims) the Chancellor of which is De La Salle Brother Peter Bray (FDMG old-boy) originally from Waitara, Taranaki. The greatly suffering Catholic communities of Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Iran will also be recipients of our Good Friday collection. You can support this collection in whatever way your parish arranges it to be taken up. Last year our Diocese collected a very generous \$21,538 for which we have received a thank you letter from the Holy Land Commissariat. Our prayers for peace in the region are also much appreciated. To learn about the work of the Franciscans in this region visit: www.custodia.org

Auckland Diocese Sunday Mass @ 2pm on SHINE TV
Free-to-air TV Channel 25 or SKY TV Channel 201

Reflection – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 27.30 - 28.7 **2nd Reading:** Romans 14.7-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.21-35

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

How often must I forgive? Gazillions, as God is compassionate and forgives me constantly.

Today's readings invite us to reflect on God's love and mercy, and to respond by showing forgiveness and compassion to others. We are called to practice forgiveness, that is, 'do it' rather than talk about it. Can you remember an action that brought you shame, and damaged important relationships – yet you were forgiven? Remember how glad and peaceful you felt afterwards, and since. As often as we pray the Our Father we are asking for forgiveness as we ourselves are to forgive.

Today's gospel has examples of huge contrast; Peter thought he was generous forgiving seven times, but Jesus says forgive innumerable, without limit. The debt owed by the first servant is a vast impossible fortune compared to the second servant who owes about three months wages. The parable invites us to see that the forgiveness we are called to give is on a minuscule scale compared with the boundless mercy of God.

Sirach, in the first reading, offers teaching about anger and forgiveness, and suggests that those who offer forgiveness can expect mercy in return whether from God or neighbour. St Paul, in the second reading, reminds us that we are united in the Lord, whatever our situation. This is echoed by Pope Francis when he says that God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things.

Reflecting on forgiveness- what does it look like? - I think of the victims of the mosque attack in Christchurch, and their families, who stood in court and forgave the killer. I am left reflecting on how I would respond in the same situation. I know I am called beyond what I think is enough.

From: Murray Adams

FORGIVENESS

Health and Wellbeing

There is increasing research into the relationship between physical activity and mental health. Evidence shows that at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most days of the week can improve mood and decrease anxiety and stress. Physical activity is also thought to have a role in preventing serious mental illness such as depression. One definition of mental health is that it is 'a positive sense of wellbeing and of being able to cope with the pressures of life.' Most of us experience changes in our moods from time to time and can have periods where we feel down or situations that make us anxious or stressed.

Physical activity is for everyone regardless of age. It gives both a sense of wellbeing and a healthy glow!

Physical activity releases endorphins into your blood stream. These are the body's natural painkillers and are responsible for the pleasant 'feel good' factor often felt after being active. Physical activity improves muscle and heart function, increases blood flow to the brain and increases the efficiency of brain chemicals. It can also promote better sleep. There is some evidence that being active can improve cognitive functioning in older people. Physical activity has psychological benefits too. It can: - improve self-esteem - give you a sense of control over your life - promote a sense of positive achievement - help with weight control - provide opportunities for socialising. Do what you can and enjoy what you do! Mental Health Foundation of NZ



A Team Effort Approach – COVID19

From the Cathedral: You will see the social distancing markings on the entrance floor, out through the door and across the driveway WE NEED TO DO EVERYTHING AS PER THE GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS. Please allow yourself extra time prior to Mass to do your track and trace so that you can join Father at the beginning of Mass. Please also remember your social distancing as you come up to receive communion. We are in need of volunteers to assist with this process (6 required for each Mass). Can you help? Please contact the Parish Office or leave your contact details with a volunteer at the Track and Trace tables.

THIS WEEK'S SCHOOL NEWS: Our Lady of Lourdes School

Tena Koutou, Malo e lelei, Talofa, Bula Vinaka, Kia orana Mauri, Namaste

From us all at Our Lady of Lourdes School, we hope this newsletter finds you all happy and well. Like you all we are having to adjust through these uncertain times. Our Charism of Mercy to 'LIVE, LOVE and LEARN with Mercy' is always in action. Our focus has been on hauroa/wellbeing of our school community. Some exciting things happening include our RE Unit linking the God strand to the Catholic Social Justice teachings of Human Dignity and Stewardship of our world. We continue to develop Play based learning, reporting real time through the Seesaw App, Passion Projects on Fridays and a wonderful grandparent supporting our school to implement the Perceptual Motor Programme (P.M.P). We have a busy term ahead with new modernisation of the five junior classrooms which we are truly grateful for. Thank you for all your support for our recent Fertilizer Drive - we are now preparing to improve our playground areas. We continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. Abundant blessings to you all - the team from OLOL.



CHURCH NOTICES

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Would you like to be Catholic? - Inquiry Evenings - RCIA (City Wide)

Wednesday 16 September and 23 September - 7.30 - 9pm in the Cathedral Lounge. A gentle evening of information and questions that will introduce the RCIA process for those who seek Baptism or those who come from another Christian tradition who wish to be formally received into the Catholic community. Please extend this invitation to any family members, friends, associates, or neighbours who may be interested.



Cathedral Parish - 11 October – First Communion Start Date



It has taken some time to sort out what and how to do 1st Communion this year with many of our usual patterns thrown into disarray. So finally let us get started in the new 4th term – enjoying the life and energy of the new season. This year we will be conducting our preparation in four weekly sessions for parents/caregivers and children together! With no separate times for parents! This means that we will need to be more savvy than usual in our organisation of logistics for the "Breakfast" Morning Tea Celebration after Mass in the Diocesan Centre on 8 November. It is imperative that you attend Mass with your children before each session, as the Mass is formative by its nature.

Parish Catechist: Kate Bell – k.bell@pncathedral.org.nz and 0276544004. Mark your calendars and diaries!

All sessions commence with Mass at 9.30am followed by morning tea and session in Diocesan Rooms			
Date	Topic	Date	Topic
11 Oct	We Gather to Celebrate	18 Oct	We Listen to God's Word
25 Oct	One Bread, One Cup, One Body	1 Nov	Belonging and Serving
4 Nov	5pm in the Cathedral – soup and sausages followed by a walkthrough of the ceremony	8 Nov	9.00am 1 st Holy Communion Celebration followed by breakfast in the Diocese Rooms

The following events are an open invitation to the Palmerston North Catholic Community – all welcome.

Every Sunday	2:00pm	Life in the Spirit Programme: Talk in the Diocesan Hall
Friday's	11:00am	During Alert Level 2, Praying the Sunday Gospel has been moved to 11:00am
22 September	5:00pm	SVDP - An invitation to our: Festival Mass of Area Conferences at the Cathedral. All members, associate members, volunteers, family, friends, prospective members and parishioners are most welcome to attend and join us for supper.

St James is currently promoting 'The Egg Project'. Please go to www.theeggproject.co.nz - register an account, use the code **SCH-002** to order, pay for the eggs you want & they will be delivered to school for a Wednesday 2.45pm - 3.15pm pick up. St James' receives \$1 per dozen eggs sold so get cracking! We ask you to spread the news about this opportunity - whanau, neighbours, workmates - remember that every dozen eggs means a dollar for St James' - a win-win for all.

Our Lady of Lourdes:

Seating Arrangement in Our Lady of Lourdes: The feedback to keep the present seating arrangement was in the majority. Thanks to all those who have participated so generously in the conversations and in the process. The number of comments regarding the various arrangements (present, choir and traditional) were very valuable. We believe we have found the compromise that best addresses the present, future, and traditional views of parishioners. We will retain this format for the future. If people wish to read the comments and the know the numbers, they will be on the notice board at the back of the Church. **Fr Joe**

First Holy Communion is planned for Sunday November 22nd – The Feast of Christ the King – 9.30am Mass

Information evening to begin is on Wednesday 28th October in the Church Gathering Area at 5.30pm

The preparation sessions will be each Sunday in November the 1st, 8th and 15th after the 9.30am Mass.

Report from the OLOL Guild: At our recent AGM the following were re-elected to office: President: June Lynch Secretary: Rose Semmens & Treasurer: Josie Conlon. June reported a shorter year than usual due to the Covid outbreak. Josie's financial report showed a healthy balance & the Guild would like to thank those who have contributed to in a variety of ways. Due to that generosity \$1200 has been donated to our two mission stations in the Pacific.

Every Friday	10:30am	Reconciliation available on Fridays 10:30-11am after Mass. Adoration available on Friday after Mass from 10:30am to 12pm. No reconciliation on Saturdays. Reconciliation available by appointment with Fr Joe
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St Mary's Foxton/Shannon:

Reconciliation is available by appointment with Fr. Joe

General Notices:

See **Noticeboard** for more information and details on certain events mentioned below and more.

† **Palmerston North Young Family Ministry Facebook** page – <https://www.facebook.com/PNYoungFamilyMinistry/>
Contact: Basia McIntosh at BMcintosh@pndiocese.org.nz phone: 021 082 03750.

† **Kia ora** all year 6 to 9 students and your Whanau! This is your official invite to join our **Junior Youth Group!** Youth group runs from 5:30-7:00pm every Friday night at the **Diocesan Centre** on Amesbury street. Come along for a night of fun, food, and good times! Stay blessed, Bridget Kelly bkelly@pndiocese.org.nz

† **Meals on Wheels – Volunteer Driver required.** See noticeboard or call Gil Escott 357 1617 or May Young 354 4677

† **Let us get to know the bible.** Come join Emma, Angie, Basia, Mel, Sarah, Lena, Sue – Nana Sue. Over a cuppa and enjoying the Word and being encouraged. **Where:** 540 Albert street, **Time** 1:15 Tuesday pm till school pickup. **Enquires** ring any of these ladies: Basia McIntosh 02108203750 BMcintosh@pndiocese.org.nz, Emma Whitson 0277557375 Analena Siu 0220209297

† **Mary, the Mother of God** – A Contemporary Understanding of Mary with Br Kieran Fenn who has a wonderful way to bring Scripture alive. This is an online series (Zoom) starting on Monday, 24 August at 7pm and will be on for 6 consecutive Mondays. The sessions are connected but also stand alone. Fee: \$25/session or \$120 for 6 sessions. Special fees for groups of more than 2 persons. For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

† **All Saints (PN) along with Archbishop David Moxon** have created a Virtual Franciscan Pilgrimage to be held on 3 October at All Saints. Resource book available on www.pilgrimage.nz. See parish noticeboard.

† **Ignatian Spirituality NZ** is offering a 6 day **Residential Silent Individually Guided Retreat –25 October, 10am to 30 October 4pm.** St. Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Auckland. Cost is \$770. Apply to: chair@ignatianspirituality.nz

† **St James School** – Taking Enrolments now for 2021. Contact School office 06 357 9719 to request an enrolment pack.

† **Ministry of Social Development** has announced a new **Community, Capability and Resilience Fund.** The Community Capability and Resilience Fund (CCRF) is a fund available to community groups for initiatives that support the rebuild and recovery from COVID-19. The \$36 million fund is available from 1 August 2020 to support communities over the next two years. Please visit their [website](http://www.msd.govt.nz) for further information.

† **CathNews** reports news about and of interest to the Catholic Church. This Catholic News has focus on New Zealand and the South Pacific – read online [CathNews New Zealand](http://www.cathnews.co.nz)

St Vincent de Paul: Op Shop - Call in and see the colourful summer clothes on display as we have made the seasonal change over. A wide range of 'plus' sizes available. **We are still in need of** bedding-linen and blankets all sizes and toys -remember us when you are cleaning out the toys.



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.