



20 September 2020 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Pastor's Desk

In *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis sought to awaken us to the dangers of an introverted, self-concerned church, engaged in culture wars, with a fundamentalist approach to life that excludes those on the margins. In *Laudato si* he reminded us of our common home – the earth- and of our need to protect it for the good of all. He challenges us to love more than ourselves, our needs, our people and become lovers of all people, especially of those most in need – the poor who are kept that way so that others can live in wealth and self-absorption.

Francis has challenged us to reflect – as if on an Ignatian retreat- on the obstacles we put in the road of God's Holy Spirit – in the way of conversion. He calls us to see that a moralistic fundamentalism has produced “Christians” who know doctrine and law very well but have forgotten mercy and faith; people who think that faith is an ideology to be taught.

Karl Rahner, a leading theologian of the twentieth century, defined ideology as “a fundamental closure in the face of the ‘wholeness’ of reality, one that turns a partial aspect into an absolute.” Where this is true, religious people place more importance on doctrine and law than on Christ himself. They have forgotten *epikeia*, the principle in ethics that a law can be broken to achieve a greater good.

An ideological stance produces a static, self-sanitised version of the Church institution as perfect, imperial, separate *-sui generis*; a liturgy that is an untouchable icon that rejects humanity, messiness and incompleteness; a parish or school community that sets its own agenda, without listening to, or engaging with, the world it serves; an individual believer who is reluctant to acknowledge her or his sinfulness and seek forgiveness; a community of believers that forgets all people are being sought-out by God for conversion. All this can produce a superior mentality that defines holiness by exclusion – those who are “good enough” to be in and excludes the rest. Ideology creates a place where God cannot meet the world, because the “false church” or the “false self” stands in the way.

We know that we are living in an era of dramatic change with technological, financial, and cultural shifts that make the transmission of faith increasingly difficult. The pressing question facing us in the 21st century is how to preach the Gospel in a world of constant, and often, dangerous change? How do we proclaim faith in Christ to those around us? How do people in our world “catch” faith?

The key is not to blame secularism and cultures of death for all our problems, or to look for the return of a perfect age or the “strong man or woman”. Look instead for the opportunity to be converted to mission and evangelisation. Step into the real world- the place where God is really present and embrace it as the place where faith-in-God is given, received, denied, re-given and received again, in the continual divine gift of conversion.

Pope Francis calls us to become missionary disciples in a culture where faith no longer reaches people through the “traditional” transmission lines of inheritance, culture, and education. Faith, he reminds us, is the fruit of a personal encounter with Jesus, the centre of all things. In Christ we encounter God's mercy.

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis wrote of the “missionary option” where the Church's structures and culture “can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for ...[the church's] self-preservation.”

As the institutions of religion crumble, authentic discipleship has the opportunity to re-emerge at the heart of our pastoral conversion as an evangelising Church that goes out to the people of this world to encounter in their lives the real presence of God.

Where Catholics look and see a crumbling structure of parishes and dioceses, a school system that can't bring parents and children to Sunday Mass; priests that are old, tired, idealless and clericalised; Sunday masses full of old people who won't give up the power and won't make way for young people, and a “youth church” that doesn't want Sundays we can become depressed and miss seeing the invitation to conversion, resurrection and mission.

Instead of asking “how will the Church deal with this?” -looking at someone else to fix it- consider the need an opportunity to “pull your own faith-filled finger out” and respond! Respond as a member of the community of faith, from within the community, not as a rugged individualist, we have enough of them.

Fr Joe Grayland

Prayer Intentions

We Pray for Our Deceased: RIP:

Augusto San Miguel (who died of Covid 19 in the Philippines), Pamela Quirk (Whanganui)

Mass intentions:

David Lampen-Smith (A18/9) & Stephanie Brown (Birthday anniversary)

Special Prayers: For all those suffering with psychological illnesses and their families. Healing for those suffering in the Philippines of Covid 19 especially for Frances San Miguel, Mina San Miguel, Andre San Miguel, Allen San Miguel & Augi San Miguel.



We pray for: Andre Griffin, Barbara & Graeme Younger, Bernadette Conlon, Catherine Walsh, Chris Kleinsman, David Maeguard, Diane Stubbs, Fiona Hurly, Evie Feierabend, Ian Sutherland, Josie Conlon, Bernice OBeirne, John Pepperell, June MacMillan, Janice Williams, 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, 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!"

Jubilarians Mass 2020

Everyone in the Diocese is invited to the annual Mass to celebrate the ordination Jubilees of 2020. The Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Thursday 8 October at 11:30am followed by a luncheon in the Cathedral gathering area, to which everyone is invited. No RSVP required.

The Jubilarians this year are: Fr John McLaughlin 65 yrs, Fr Frank Twiss SM 60 yrs, Fr Walter Cooke 60 yrs, Fr John Dykes 55 yrs, Fr Michael Wooller SM 50 yrs, Fr Peter Brockhill 30 yrs & Fr Craig Butler 25 yrs

Episcopal Ordinations: Bishop Peter Cullinane 40 yrs & Bishop Owen Dolan 25 yrs.
Congratulations and Blessings to our Jubilarians!



Marriage Preparation Course for those getting married during the next 12 month.

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 contact your Parish office.

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

Reflection – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55.6-9 **2nd Reading:** Philippians 1.20-24, 27

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20.1-16

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is near to all who call him.

A commentary I looked at indicated a key message in today's Gospel was Jesus addressing the position of the non-Jewish Christians who came to "the fold" a lot later than the Jewish Christians. The Jewish Christians had a long history of faithfulness to God and yet the more recent non-Jewish Christians were being welcomed just the same as them. That reminded me, a bit like the elder son resenting the father's celebration of the late return to the fold of the prodigal son when the elder son had been faithful for so long.

My own reflection on the gospel springs from my life experience. If I were practising law in the place, and at the time, Jesus told this parable, I would be very busy. I am sure I would have several disgruntled workers wanting me to go to court to obtain a favourable judgment for them. They would plead the landowner did not give them a "fair go".

Our law courts can reopen contracts if the court thinks the contract was oppressive or unconscionable or give remedy if a party is misled in entering the contract. Our employment contracts are based on "good faith" and our consumer contracts, generally, on what is fair.

But our dealing or relationship with God is not based on "contract" and as Isaiah reminds us in the first reading "God's ways are not our ways." Our relationship with God is not a contract relationship but a covenant relationship. God's new covenant with us, through Jesus, is not based on strict terms and conditions agreed by both sides as in a contract but based on His Love, freely given, for everyone. No one is excluded. Not even those, in the parable answering Jesus with "no one else would have us".

Kevin Campbell

Health and Wellbeing

Timely communication in today's world is critical. Are the details held at your parish office up to date? Do we have your current cell phone number and email address. Please contact your parish office and update your information. All contact phone numbers and email addresses are at the end of the newsletter.



THIS WEEK'S SCHOOL NEWS: St Mary's School Foxton

St Mary's Foxton is fully behind the Social Justice Week, under the organisation of *Caritas (Love in Action)*. So what is Social Justice?...."Social" relating to an *organisation of people, people, people...*" Justice" relating to a distribution of nurturing love



and resources that must be *compassionate, equitable and fair, just, right!!* I have decided to isolate 2 of our Social Justice Principles: Dignity and Solidarity. If we really believe that we are made in the likeness of Christ, then every face we see is the face of Christ. Every human being has a right to the basic needs of nurturing, shelter, food, and clothing. Every human being has a purpose and the right to belong to their culture. Our rich discussions from the Keeping Ourselves Safe Programme that the whole school has embraced together, are reminding the children daily of how we can impact on the mental health of others. There is an almighty moral obligation to keep ourselves safe and to look out for others.

TE MANA I TE TANGATA Human Dignity

'Every person is worthy of our giving...they are God's handiwork, his creation. God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives.'

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, #274, 2013) In exploring solidarity a bit further, we can see that if people stand together for a common cause; a common action of unity; mutual support within a group; we can action our good intentions and be a stronger voice to the world when standing up for what is right and dignified together, forever. Imagine the impact we can have on others lives, especially if they are poor and vulnerable. The way that our school came together as *Good Sorts* when we collected quality clothing for the local Women's Refuge, showed that we were united in this worthy cause of acknowledging the care and safety needed against violent behaviour, as well as the distributing of a valued resource.



WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA Solidarity



'The word 'solidarity'... refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity...[it is about] community and the priority of the life of all...' Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, #188, 2013) I recently attended the most beautiful tangi for a friend Victor, who had been a tetraplegic due to the condition of Ataxia. The more time I spent with him this year the more I learned about the joy and peace he gave to all. He beat me at games such as draughts and music quizzes. His laughter, his music and his attitude to being full of life will stay with me as a witness forever. As we tributed the story of who Victor was and who his whanau were, we all stood in solidarity for celebrating his life outside Poutou Pa, amidst the creation of the Ruahine Hills that we were handing him back to. People like Victor are the face of God and have more wisdom

and time to teach us than what we can do in return. They obligate and inspire us to look beyond and to explore new creative gifts and talents. Social Justice is a daily attitude of greeting and treating people right every minute of the day, only to find we learn in return. May everything we do encounter *love in action*.

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.

† In the event we move to Level 1 on 21st of September at 11:59pm, our **Youth Ministers**, Hinekawa and Bridget will be running their respective **Youth Groups** in that week. If we remain at Level 2, youth group will be on hold until after the school holidays.

† **St Vincent de Paul:** Op Shop - Our summer clothes are moving quickly so if you are looking at your wardrobe for next season please bring in your extras! Toys are still in hot demand - thanks to those who have helped already.

† **Would you like to be Catholic? - Inquiry Evenings - RCIA (City Wide)** Wednesday 23 September 7:30pm – 9:00pm 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.



† **Combined Passionist Family Groups Quiz Night:** Come along and join in a great night of trivia and fun! This will be held on Saturday 10 October, 7pm at the Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St, Palmerston North. BYO supper, everyone is welcome! Contact dodsworth87@gmail.com to register your team.

† **Praise and Worship:** A teaching with an experience of the Holy Spirit. Includes a workshop presentation by Mike & Wilma Conroy and Theresa Goulding. Saturday 17 October. 9am to 4.30pm, OLOL Church, Shamrock St, Palmerston North culminating in Vigil Mass 5.30pm. Please bring something to share for lunch. A Koha will be appreciated. Contact John Hammond 027 688 7750 for more info.

† **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

† **Flashes of Insight** - if you would like to view the online clips please click the following links: [Flashes of Insight Let's Talk Liturgy – Episode One](#), [Flashes of Insight Let's Talk Liturgy – Episode Two](#), [Flashes of Insight Let's Talk Liturgy – Episode Three](#)

† **Online Session (Evening): Mary, the Mother of God** – A Contemporary Understanding of Mary with Br Kieran Fenn who has a wonderful way of bringing Scripture alive. Topic on Monday, 21 September, 7-8.30pm: Marian Dogmas – Do they Speak to Today? Fee: \$25/session. Special fees for groups of more than 2 persons. ZOOM. For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz See also: [Study Joy Events Bookings](#)

Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I ? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 24 October, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60. For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>

† **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.pilgrimagenz.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.

† **MSD** has announced a new **Community, Capability and Resilience Fund**. The Community Capability & Resilience Fund (CCRF) is a fund available to community groups for initiatives that support the rebuild & recovery from COVID-19. The \$36 million fund is available from 1 Aug 2020 to support communities over the next 2 years. Please visit their [website](#) for further information.

† **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](#).

St Mary's Parish Palmerston North Celebration of their 1st Communion 2020 group. Last Sunday 32 children celebrated their first communion. The following is a beautiful recording of the day! <https://youtu.be/L2tfjUc45eQ>

CHURCH NOTICES

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit



11 October – First Communion Start Date: 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

Every Sunday	2:00pm	Life in the Spirit Programme: Talk in the Diocesan Hall
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.

Please note: If we are moving to **Alert Level 1** next week, we will be **returning** to having our **Cameo** after 12:05pm Mass on Friday 25 September 2020. As well as moving our **Praying the Sunday Gospel** back to **1:30pm**.

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:

First Holy Communion is planned for Sunday 22 November – The Feast of Christ the King – 9.30am Mass. Information evening to begin is on Wednesday 28 October in the Church Gathering Area at 5.30pm. The preparation sessions will be each Sunday in 1, 8 and 15 November after the 9.30am Mass.

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 by appointment with Fr Joe
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Sacred Heart - Rongotea:

Rongotea **Combined Women's Fellowship Meeting** Tuesday 22 September 10am at St Luke's Church. Sacred Heart and St Simon & St Jude ladies are leading the Devotions. Everyone very welcome.

Reconciliation by appointment with Fr. Joe

St Mary's Foxton/Shannon:

Reconciliation by appointment with Fr. Joe

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.