



8 November 2020 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

### Pastor's Desk

"I Come Here with Mixed Feelings: Great Sadness and Anger"

Just one month after 15 March 2019, suicide bombers attacked three churches in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday. In response, Brother Hazim Arefeh from the Manawatu Muslim Association asked if he could make a statement of condolence at the Cathedral. I was greatly **touched** by this gesture of concern given the fact that Brother Hazim was still grieving the hideous assault on his own religious community in Christchurch. After what happened at the Basilica of Notre Dame in Nice, I thought he might be willing to speak to us again.

On November 1, the Feast of All Saints, Br. Hazim expressed immense sorrow for the senseless killing in France, and great anger that this violence was perpetrated in a place of worship. He was accompanied by Br. Riaz Rehman, current President of the Manawatu Muslim Association, and past president, Dr. Zulfiqar Haider Butt, now on the City Council.

Br. Hazim told us that religious freedom is a central tenet of Islam. He highlighted his Jordanian heritage where Christians and Muslims live in harmony, where Christians enjoy freedom of worship and where ancient Christian sites are respected. A true Muslim therefore would *never* commit such heinous acts. Such violence would immediately place the perpetrator outside of Islam.

When Br. Hazim accepted my invitation, he stated that "Islam condemns all violence *in a place of worship*." That phrase resonated with me because it invokes the tradition of *sanctuary*,

which is precious to all faith traditions. It was violated in Christchurch, Sri Lanka and now in Nice.

Whether our sacred place is the church, mosque, synagogue or temple, people gather together to worship God in community, expecting to be safe. Indeed, the concept has been part of human cultures for thousands of years with a strong tradition of sanctuary in the Middle East and Northern Africa. When Br. Hazim said sadly, "Things are happening today which should never be happening," I believe he was referring to a nihilistic disregard for a sacred tradition on which humane society has been established.

It was important to Br. Hazim that other members of the interfaith group be present on Sunday. Besides Julie Randall, however, only Hadassah bat Avrohom uVatsheva, founding member of the Interfaith Group, from the Council of Jewish Women and Gerry Lew from the Baha'i community were able to attend. Hadassah came because "It is important that the majority religions in NZ realise that they are not alone in condemning these vicious acts." Gerry Lew, newly appointed deputy chair of the Interfaith Group, observed: "The true Christian spirit for me has always been about support and love for one another, and it was a blessing to be at the Cathedral today to do so. And it was truly a blessing to witness our Muslim brothers being welcomed to speak in such a holy sanctuary and for the [bishop] sic and the congregation to warmly acknowledge them".

Mary Eastham, Coordinator of the Interfaith Group

### Special Notices

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

So parishioners can respond in unison each month we will alternate these responses starting with:  
*"When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again!"*

**Congratulations** to the children making their **First Holy Communion** today at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Sarah Balm, Sylvie Buckingham, Patrick Curry, Cameron Donald, Alice Donald, Cruze Kauri, Adeline Guieysse, Max Hansen, Henry Hoskins, Hannah Mahawish, Sophia Mahawish, Fia Maskill, Elisha Mani, Gloria McIntosh, Ava O'Brien, Jinsei Okawa, Kim Pedersen, Noah Pedersen, Ashley Pomare, Kelly Roach, Alexander Quinn, Sebastian Sandoval, Liam Stanford, Liam Sutherland, August Triggs, Mia Tutaki, Bonnie Wight & Ailee Winskill. God bless them all!

**November – Holy Souls Month** – Traditionally during the month of November **we pray for our faithful departed**. Masses are offered for their intentions and we acknowledge their lives with prayerful thanksgiving. Please place your list of beloved dead in the box on the table in the church foyer.



**Congratulations to Margaret Leamy** who has been appointed Principal of St Peter's College. Margaret has been Acting Principal since 28 September and has been Deputy Principal of St Peter's College since 2016. She will take up the role of Principal effective immediately.

Margaret has been very involved in our parish and St James School community. Every blessing to Margaret as she continues to build the St Peters' community in the Catholic faith that is celebrated and lived, both inside and outside the classroom.

**Congratulations** Laura and Adam Ven Gelder on the birth of your daughter Charlotte.



**OLOL First Holy Communion** will be celebrated on 22 November at 9:30am Mass. Everyone Welcome!

**New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal 2021** – Please advise the Cathedral Parish Office [office@pncathedral.org.nz](mailto:office@pncathedral.org.nz) / 06 357 2891 if you would still like to have a copy of this booklet.

**Little Blue Books (Advent) are For Sale at the Cathedral Parish office for \$5.00 each.**

### Prayer Intentions

**We Pray for Our Deceased:** RIP: Verna Sheehan, George McPeak, Francis (Kevin) Charles Allen, Muriel Atkinson (Napier), Michael Jude Kennedy & Sr Mary Gordon

**Mass intentions:** John O'Brien (A04/11), Mary Lampen-Smith (A5/11) Tilly Ellmers & Joyce Ellmers-Chamberlain.

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





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

## Reflection – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Wisdom 6.12-16, **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25.1-13

**Responsorial Psalm:** *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

In this month of November, we are called to recognise those that have gone before us and pray for their safe passage into the Kingdom of God. This week's readings encourage us to look toward our own journeys toward that goal and ask what we can do better to achieve them.

In the first reading, from the book of Wisdom, we are told about the understanding and calm that can come from seeking wisdom, encouraging us to do so for our own good. Initially, it seems difficult to see how this connects - but if we read past where this week's reading ends we hear that 'giving heed to [Wisdom's] laws is assurance of immortality.' This week's reading is calling us to open our hearts to wisdom, be open to new ways of understanding our world, so that we can be better people and come closer to God - preparing ourselves for entrance into heaven.

The second reading, from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, calls us to focus on the hope in death; to remember that we and those who have passed before us are saved in Christ Jesus. I think this message is one which can be difficult to remember at times, but this emphasis on hope and joy through our faith is one which also has the power to give context to what we do in this life, and empower us to do what is needed of us.

The Gospel reading, from Matthew, serves to unite these themes of preparation and hope. We see the unfortunate consequence of failing to seek and prepare for God in the foolish bridesmaids who have not prepared themselves for the wedding, as well as the hope and joy of the wise bridesmaids who get to participate in the celebration that is awaiting for us if we heed the advice of this week's readings. **From Klem McJarrow-Keller**

## NOTICES:

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

† **St Mary's PN Parish Retreat:** In preparation for Christmas, our parish is organizing a retreat by Fr. Michael Hill IC on 28 November at 10am-1pm. If you are interested in attending the retreat, please RSVP 06 358 5614 by 25<sup>th</sup> November for catering purposes. Thank you.

† 27 to 29 November 2020 – **ADVENT RETREAT** with Rex Begley & Fr. Donald Hornsey SSC. Magnificat Retreat Centre, Cross Creek Road, Featherston. Cost \$190.00. Please register. Contact: [rexandtheresabegley@gmail.com](mailto:rexandtheresabegley@gmail.com) Phone: 027 545 6808 or 027 967 2299

† **OLOL: Encyclical Letter, FRATELLI TUTTI** – Pope FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY & SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP reading & discussion group. Thursdays in November (12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>) 7pm to 8pm. Lead by Fr Joe Grayland. Purpose: to read & discuss the letter. [Reading Material Online here](#). All welcome.

† **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](mailto:BMcintosh@pndiocese.org.nz)

† **Young Catholic Leader** is still taking registrations for the upcoming programme from December 14-18, 2020. For more information please contact Nick Wilson on 021822814 or [nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz)

† **Volunteer driver needed for Meals on Wheels** – please contact Gil Escott 357 1617 or May Young 354 4677 / [szm.young@xtra.co.nz](mailto:szm.young@xtra.co.nz).

† **Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy** – Online Session (Evening): For more information and registration: [info@studyjoy.nz](mailto:info@studyjoy.nz) See also: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/the-gospel-of-mark-2/>

† **Cathedral** – every Wednesday at 5:00pm – **Praying the Rosary** – Everyone Welcome

† **Cathedral** – every Thursday during school term at 9:30am – **Shining Stars** – Everyone Welcome

† **Cathedral** – every Friday after 12.05pm Mass – **Hospitality** – Everyone Welcome

† **St Mary's Foxton** – every Friday at 1:00pm – **Praying the Rosary** – Everyone Welcome

† **Cathedral** – every Friday at 1:30pm – **Praying the Sunday Gospel** – Everyone Welcome

† **Cathedral** – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 1:30pm – **Ladies Movie Afternoon** – Everyone Welcome

† **Cathedral** – every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 10:30am – **Blokes Morning Tea** – Everyone Welcome

† **CathNews** available [online](#)

† **NZ Catholic** – for sale in the parish foyer for \$4.00.

12 November 4:00pm **Diocese of Palmerston North 2020 Update** to be held at the Diocese Centre.

16 November 1:00pm **Cathedral Gathering Area – Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society** – St Patrick's Branch 400 Third Quarterly Meeting

† **St Vincent de Paul:** 10 November @ 5:15pm – **Meeting** in the Cathedral Lounge.

† **St Vincent de Paul:** Some suggestions for our food store as some items are becoming depleted: small pasta & sauce, spaghetti & baked beans, tinned vegetables, instant coffee, noodles & muesli bars or similar for lunch boxes. Thank you for your continuing support.

† **St Vinnie's Shop:** We still require Children's toys and children's clothes as both are popular items.



*Notices for the Newsletter: Email [info@lourdesparish.nz](mailto:info@lourdesparish.nz) by 9am Thursdays. Newsletter Items that are received after 9am on Thursdays will be included the following week.*