



Diocese of
Palmerston North

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish

Palmerston North (1951)

Te Pariha o te mātou Wahine o Ruata

Rev Fr Vaughan Leslie
Administrator
Presbytery: 06 358 3667
Cell: 027 385 9615
frvjplleslie@yahoo.com

LOL MASSES
5:30pm Vigil (Sat)
8:00am & 10:00am
Mon—Sat 10:00am
RECONCILIATION
Sat 10:30am—11:00am or on request

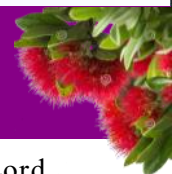
EUCCHARIST ADORATION
Fri: 10:30am—Noon & 7:00pm—9:00pm

RONGOTEA MASSES
9:30am: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
of the month



Fourth Sunday of Advent

24th December 2017; Year B / Weekdays Year 2



Psalm Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Prayers of the Faithful Response: Whakarongo mai ra kia matou.

Christmas Blessings to You All

As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Nativity in a day's time, I wish to sincerely thank those in our parish who have generously given of their time, talents and energy over 2017. I have been just amazed how many parishioners actively give of themselves in service of others. I would like to thank you all by name, but I firstly fear I might miss someone out and secondly that I'd end up publishing the parish roll and be in breach of the Privacy Act! :-). Thank you everyone for all your efforts in making Lourdes a wonderful faith filled Catholic community.

On a personal note, I've very much enjoyed my 2-years here and have greatly appreciated the wonderful support you've shown me; I'm not sure where the 2-years have gone as it just seems as if I unpacked a few months ago!

I'm sure you will all make Fr Joe Grayland's move into the parish as your Parish Priest a very welcoming experience for him. He is a good man and I have no doubt he will continue the wonderful care you have received from all the previous LOL parish clergy.

I wish you all a most enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and holiday season with friends and family. May the Lord, whose birth we honour, keep you all safe in his care.

God love,
Fr Vaughan.

Christmas Message from our Bishop

Kia ora tatou,

At many moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, but in our time he has spoken to us in the person of his Son. He is the reflection of God's glory and bears the impress of God's own being, and sustains all things. (Hebrews 1:1-4)



The birth of Jesus changed the world. God became one of us. And we moved into the new time of AD: Anno Domini, years of the Lord.

There never has been and never will be an occurrence so filled with mystery. Little wonder the simplicity yet profundity of Christmas engages all our senses and emotions. Wonder, awe and bewilderment give rise to gratitude, gentleness, and compassion, and our hearts and minds are renewed.

The vulnerability of the manger rests in stark contrast to powerful yet jealous King Herod and his henchmen. Following Christ, we make our journey of life guided by the true light, the Prince of Peace, who dispels the lure of false lights and the dark temptations of greed and selfishness.

Let us rejoice at the gift of faith. Let us give thanks for our own tupuna who have guided us in the way of faith and let us embrace anew our life of light: in the words addressed to you at your baptism, "you have been enlightened by Christ ... walk always as a child of the light ... keep the flame of faith alive in your heart..."

God bless you and your whānau this Christmas, including the sick or troubled wherever they may be.

Thank you for what each one of you does to make our Diocese a family of faith.

+ Charles

Bishop Charles Drennan.

FAREWELL AND COLLECTION FOR FR VAUGHAN

The weekend 13/14th January 2018 will be the last Masses Fr Vaughan will be celebrating at Our Lady of Lourdes as Administrator; hence, at the conclusion of all Masses that weekend (5:30pm, 8am and 10am) you are invited to stay for a cupper to say goodbye (please bring a plate). A farewell collection is currently being taken up to present to Father for his 2-years of service in our parish, pastoral area and schools. Donations (and personal cards) can be made by placing them in the Sunday collection baskets at Masses up until 14th January, in envelopes marked: Fr Vaughan's Farewell.

PARISH PRIEST INSTALLATION MASS

On Sunday 21st January at the 10am Mass Bishop Charles Drennan will formally install Fr Joe Grayland as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes. Please come along and welcome our new Parish Priest.

LOL PRAYER CHAIN: Ph Eileen O'Connor
329 1801/021 671 755 or the Parish Office.

HAVE YOU SEEN BISHOP CHARLES' FACE-BOOK PAGE? For some great reflections and photos of his time in India and Laos check out his facebook page:

www.facebook.com/BishopCharlesDrennan

TE AHI KAA – THE HEARTH-PLACE If you are interested in growing your faith through prayer, service, hospitality, formation, and fun, find out more about our Youth Adult Community House. Situated close to the Cathedral and to town, Te Ahi Kaa is a perfect base for a year of discernment and mission, in a supportive Catholic community. For more information contact Georgia 022 670 4422; georgia.m.collins@hotmail.com

**ON SALE NZ Catholic \$4; Tui Motu \$7;
2018 Columban Calendar \$12;**

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED Catholic mum in her final year of doctoral study and her two daughters, students aged 21 and 16, are in need of clean and affordable rental accommodation in Palmerston North from early-to-mid January. They have two small non-shedding hypoallergenic therapy dogs. Phone or text Sharon 027 577 5223 if you can assist.

We Pray for the Sick: Michael Eades, Vinnie Carroll, Oleg Bogdanovas, Evie Feierabend, Vanessa Farrelly, Joan Lambourne, Graeme Younger, Mary Jefferies, Kevin Patterson, Ian Sutherland, Ann Fairclough, Mikulas Oros, Louis Heynen, Braxton Prentice, Katherine Denby, Anne & Bill Bethune, Toshi Sekizaki, Marie Hubbard, Oliver Gillespie, Guiseppina Dujany,

Died Recently

Colleen Hughes

Anniversaries

Requiescant in Pace

Pope Francis on the Mass

Wednesday, 15 & 22 November 2017

We are continuing with the catechesis on the Holy Mass. To illustrate the beauty of the Eucharistic celebration, I would like to begin with a very simple aspect: Mass is prayer; rather, it is prayer par excellence, the loftiest, the most sublime, and at the same time the most "concrete". In fact it is the loving encounter with God through his Word and the Body and Blood of Jesus. It is an encounter with the Lord.

But first we must answer a question. What truly is prayer? It is first of all a dialogue, a personal relationship with God. Man was created as a being in a personal relationship with God who finds his complete fulfilment only in the encounter with his Creator. The path of life leads toward the definitive encounter with the Lord.

The Book of Genesis states that man was created in the image and likeness of God, who is the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, a perfect relationship of love which is unity. From this we can understand that we were all created in order to enter a perfect relationship of love, in the continuous giving and receiving of ourselves so as to be able to find the fulfilment of our being.

When Moses, before the burning bush, receives God's call, he asks Him His name. And how does God respond? "I am who I am" (Ex 3:14). This expression, in its original sense, expresses presence and favour, and indeed, immediately afterwards God adds: "the Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob" (cf. v. 15). Thus, when Christ calls his disciples, he, too, calls them so that they may be with Him. This indeed is the greatest grace: being able to feel that the Mass, the Eucharist, is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and with brothers and sisters.

Praying, as every true dialogue, is also knowing how to be in silence — in dialogues there are moments of silence — in silence together with Jesus. When we go to Mass, perhaps we arrive five minutes early and begin to chat with the person next to us. But this is not the moment for small talk; it is the moment of silence to prepare ourselves for the dialogue. It is the moment for recollection within the heart, to prepare ourselves for the encounter with Jesus. Silence is so important! Remember what I said last week: we are not going to a spectacle, we are going to the encounter with the Lord, and silence prepares us and accompanies us. Pausing

in silence with Jesus. From this mysterious silence of God springs his Word which resonates in our heart. Jesus himself teaches us how it is truly possible to "be" with the Father and he shows us this with his prayer. The Gospels show us Jesus who withdraws to secluded places to pray; seeing his intimate relationship with God, the disciples feel the desire to be able to take part in it, and they ask him: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk 11:1). We heard it in the First Reading, at the beginning of the Audience. Jesus responds that the first thing necessary for prayer is being able to say "Father". Let us take heed: if I am not able to say "Father" to God, I am not capable of prayer. We must learn to say "Father", that is, to place ourselves in his presence with filial trust. But to be able to learn, we must humbly recognize that we need to be taught, and to say with simplicity: 'Lord, teach me to pray'.

This is the first point: to be humble, to recognize ourselves as children, to rest in the Father, to trust in him. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven, it is necessary to become little, like children. In the sense that children know how to trust; they know that someone will take care of them, of what they will eat, of what they will wear and so on (cf. Mt 6:25-32). This is the first perspective: trust and confidence, as a child toward his parents; to know that God remembers you, takes care of you, of you, of me, of everyone.

The second condition, too, is being precisely like children; it is to let ourselves be surprised. A child always asks thousands of questions because he wants to discover the world; and he even marvels at little things because everything is new to him. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven we must let ourselves be astonished. In our relationship with the Lord, in prayer — I ask — do we let ourselves be astonished or do we think that prayer is speaking with God as parrots do? No, it is trusting and opening the heart so as to let ourselves be astonished. Do we allow ourselves to be surprised by God who is always the God of surprises? Because the encounter with the Lord is always a living encounter; it is not a museum encounter. It is a living encounter, and we go to Mass, not to a museum. We go to a living encounter with the Lord.



The Gospel speaks of a certain Nicodemus (Jn 3:1-21), an elderly man, an authority in Israel, who goes to Jesus to get to know him; and the Lord speaks to him of the need to "be born anew" (cf. v. 3). But what does it mean? Can one be "reborn"? Is it possible to return to having the zest, the joy, the wonder of life, even in the face of so much tragedy? This is a fundamental question of our faith, and this is the longing of every true believer: the longing to be reborn, the joy of beginning anew. Do we have this longing? Does each of us have the wish to be born ever anew in order to meet the Lord? Do you have this wish? Indeed, one can easily lose it because, due to so many activities, so many projects to implement, in the end we are short of time and we lose sight of what is fundamental: the inner life of the heart, our spiritual life, our life which is the encounter with the Lord in prayer.

In truth, the Lord surprises us by showing us that he loves us even in our weaknesses. "Jesus Christ ... is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 Jn 2:2). This gift, the source of true consolation — but the Lord always forgives us — this consoles; it is a true consolation; it is a gift that we are given through the Eucharist, that wedding feast at which the Bridegroom encounters our frailty. Can I say that when I receive communion during Mass, the Lord encounters my frailty? Yes! We can say so because this is true! The Lord encounters our frailty so as to lead us back to our first call: that of being in the image and likeness of God. This is the environment of the Eucharist. This is prayer.

We now consider the Mass as the memorial of Christ's passover from death to life. In the Bible, a "memorial" is more than a mere remembrance of a past event; it is the making present of that event, which enables us to share in its saving power. At every celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus pours out his mercy upon us, as he did on the cross, in order to renew our hearts, our lives and our entire world. In the words of the Second Vatican Council, "as often as the sacrifice of the cross is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out" (Lumen Gentium, 3). Each Sunday, we enter into Christ's victory over sin and death and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given a share in his very life. By making present the Lord's paschal mystery, the Eucharist strengthens us to bear witness, like the martyrs of old, to his triumph over death and to love others as he does, freely giving of ourselves for their good.

<http://w2.vatican.va>

PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday—Friday: 9:00am—1:00pm
96 Shamrock Street, Palmerston North 4412
06 358 3667; Fax 06 358 8817
lolpn@extra.co.nz
www.lourdesparish.nz
Secretary: Mrs Catherine McNamara

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair: Mrs Leigh Basile



Our Lady of Lourdes School

Principal: Mrs Jacinta Cousins
06 358 9727
www.ololschool.nz

St Peter's College

Acting Principal: Mr James Rose
06 354 4198
www.stpeterspn.school.nz



NEXT WEEK

Readings Dec 31st: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40.

ROSTERS: December

Church Cleaning: (Dec 18th) Mary Dorn and Marie O'Brien.

Counting: (Jan 3rd) Lorraine Marriott and Jane Charlton.

Flowers: C/- Mary Dorn (coordinator).

Greeters: **Vigil 5:30pm** Kathy Morton and Lesley Wright

8am Jim Murphy and Pat Burton **10am** Josie Conlon.

Readers: **Vigil 5:30pm** Rosalie McCann and Jane Charlton **8am** Maree O'Donoghue and Kath Rooney **10am** Trish Dawson and Patria Kerr.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: **Vigil 5:30pm** Martin and Judith Wall, John Werder, Monica Hammond, Hannah Brown **8am** Kieran McCormack, Judy Nixon, Colin Keegan **10am** Jeanette and Eric Wright, Brendon O'Connor, Martin Boyle, Julia Sissons.

Altar Servers: 10am: Holidays.

Children's Liturgy: Holidays.

Hospitality: 10am Dianne Jordan and Margarita Barnera-Kerr.

Religious Goods/Library: Closed over the holiday period.

Linen: Catherine Kearins (Dec).

Lawns: (Dec 23rd) Kieran McCormack.