



Diocese of
Palmerston North

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish

Palmerston North (1951)

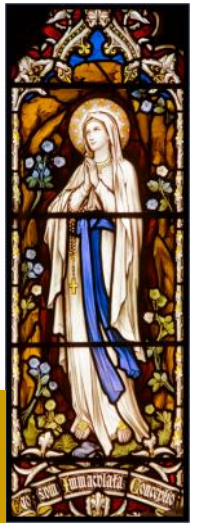
Te Parihā o te mātou Wahine o Ruata

Rev Fr Vaughan Leslie
Administrator
Presbytery: 06 358 3667
Cell: 027 385 9615
frjpleslie@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

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

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



The Epiphany of the Lord

7th January 2018; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

Psalm Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Prayers of the Faithful Response: Whakarongo mai ra kia matou.

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' FACEBOOK 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.

MARIAN EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY

Kerala Catholic Prayer Community prayer meeting, every Monday 4:15pm-7:00pm OLOL.

PROLIFE FACTS Voice for Life (09) 4430995 or www.voiceforlife.org.nz. See notice board.

2018 Parish Mass & Picnic

advanced notice
Sunday 25th February

The Parish Pastoral Council encourages you to write this date in your diaries and mark your calendars. The picnic was a great success last year and so will follow a similar format but will occur on site in the school/parish grounds.

The picnic will begin with 10:00am Mass at OLOL, followed with traditional picnic games for all ages and a BBQ lunch. More information on the picnic coming mid January.



Please Note: There will be a 5:30pm Vigil Mass at OLOL that weekend, but no 8:00am Sunday Mass.

service, which went ahead amid high security.

Father Najeeb Michael, who also took part in the Mass, said: "Let us hope that the light of Jesus may shine in their hearts and bring light to our wounded world."

When Mosul was taken by Daesh in June 2014, almost all of the city's Christians left after Daesh gave them an ultimatum of either converting to Islam or being killed.

For the first time in almost 1,800 years, no Mass was celebrated in the city.

Daesh seized Christian homes, marking them with an Arabic 'n' symbol denoting 'Nazarene' – Christian.

With Daesh now flushed out of Iraq, Aid to the Church in Need is committed to helping Christians return to their towns and villages, rebuilding homes and other vital structures which were badly damaged during the Islamists' occupation.

ACN's work has helped stem the exodus of Christians from Iraq, with numbers reportedly now down to below 250,000.

Midnight Mass in Mosul

First Service in More Than Three Years
by John Pontifex, 3 Jan 2018—[ZENIT](#)

The bells rang out in Mosul for the first time in more than three years when a church in Iraq's second city opened its doors for Christmas Midnight Mass.

Up to the last minute, plans for the service at Mar Pulse Church in Mosul's Al-Mundshen suburb hung in the balance – until a group of young Muslims helped clean the church and make it ready – including erecting the cross, according to Aid in the Church in Need (ACN).

About 400 families – up to 2,000 people – attended the service, traveling to Mosul from displacement camps near Erbil, the capital of Kurdish northern Iraq. It is still unsafe for Christians to go back and live in Mosul, which was only liberated from Daesh (ISIS) – although there are reports of a few families going back, ACN reported.

Presiding at the Mass was Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako of Baghdad.

In a sign of growing ecumenical relations, also taking part was Syriac Catholic Archbishop Butros Moshe of Mosul and in attendance was Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Nicodemus Douad of Mosul.

Muslim representatives were also present at the



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

Died Recently

Fr Felix Ngapere & Sr Adrienne Whitehead RSM

Anniversaries

Requiescant in Pace

Year Opens in the Name of the Mother

Mother of God is the Most Important Title of Our Lady—1 Jan 2018 [ZENIT](#)

"The year opens in the name of the Mother," Pope Francis said in his homily at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on January 1, 2018, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. "Mother of God is the most important title of Our Lady."

The Holy Father reminded the congregation that the Church has declared that Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus but the Mother of God. That shows "a magnificent truth" that God "took on our humanity."

"The word mother (mater) is related to the word matter," the Pope continued. "In his Mother, the God of heaven, the infinite God, made himself small, he became matter, not only to be with us but also to be like us."

Devotion to Mary is "a requirement of the Christian life...not spiritual etiquette," Francis concluded. He noted that it is important to "leave behind all sorts of useless baggage" and look to Mary to find what really matters.

The Homily of the Holy Father

The year opens in the name of the Mother. Mother of God is the most important title of Our Lady. But we might ask why we say Mother of God and not Mother of Jesus. In the past, some wanted to be content simply with the latter, but the Church has declared that Mary is the Mother of God. We should be grateful because these words contain a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves. From the moment that our Lord became incarnate in Mary, and for all time, he took on our humanity. There is no longer God without man; the flesh Jesus took from his Mother is our own, now and for all eternity. To call Mary the Mother of God reminds us of this: God is close to humanity, even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb.

The word mother (mater) is related to the word matter. In his Mother, the God of heaven, the infinite God,

made himself small, he became matter, not only to be with us but also to be like us. This is the miracle, the great novelty! Man is no longer alone; no more an orphan, but forever a child. The year opens with this novelty. And we proclaim it by saying: Mother of God! Ours is the joy of knowing that our solitude has ended. It is the beauty of knowing that we are beloved children, of knowing that this childhood of ours can never be taken away from us. It is to see a reflection of ourselves in the frail and infant God resting in his mother's arms and to realize that humanity is precious and sacred to the Lord. Henceforth, to serve human life is to serve God. All life, from life in the mother's womb to that of the elderly, the suffering and the sick, and to that of the troublesome and even repellent, is to be welcomed, loved and helped.

Let us now be guided by today's Gospel. Only one thing is said about the Mother of God: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). She kept them. She simply kept; Mary does not speak. The Gospel does not report a single word of hers in the entire account of Christmas. Here too, the Mother is one with her Son: Jesus is an "infant", a child "unable to speak". The Word of God, who "long ago spoke in many and various ways" (Heb 1:1), now, in the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), is silent. The God before whom all fall silent is himself a speechless child. His Majesty is without words; his mystery of love is revealed in lowliness. This silence and lowliness is the language of his kingship. His Mother joins her Son and keeps these things in silence.

That silence tells us that, if we would "keep" ourselves, we need silence. We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib. Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved; we savour the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart. His lowliness lays low our pride; his poverty challeng-

es our outward display; his tender love touches our hardened hearts. To set aside a moment of silence each day to be with God is to "keep" our soul; it is to "keep" our freedom from being corroded by the banality of consumerism, the blare of commercials, the stream of empty words and the overpowering waves of empty chatter and loud shouting.

The Gospel goes on to say that Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. What were these things? They were joys and sorrows. On the one hand, the birth of Jesus, the love of Joseph, the visit of the shepherds, that radiant night. But on the other, an uncertain future, homelessness "because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7), the desolation of rejection, the disappointment of having to give birth to Jesus in a stable. Hopes and worries, light and darkness: all these things dwelt in the heart of Mary. What did she do? She pondered them, that is to say she dwelt on them, with God, in her heart. She held nothing back; she locked nothing within out of self-pity or resentment. Instead, she gave everything over to God. That is how she "kept" those things. We "keep" things when we hand them over: by not letting our lives become prey to fear, distress or superstition, by not closing our hearts or trying to forget, but by turning everything into a dialogue with God. God, who keeps us in his heart, then comes to dwell in our lives.

These, then, are the secrets of the Mother of God: silently treasuring all things and bringing them to God. And this took place, the Gospel concludes, in her heart. The heart makes us look to the core of the person, his or her affections, and life. At the beginning of the year, we too, as Christians on our pilgrim way, feel the need to set out anew from the centre, to leave behind the burdens of the past and to start over from the things that really matter. Today, we have before us the point of departure: the Mother of God. For Mary is exactly what God wants us to be, what he wants his Church to be: a Mother who is tender and lowly, poor in material goods and rich in love, free of sin and united to Jesus, keeping God in our hearts and our neighbour in our lives. To set out anew, let us look to our Mother. In her heart beats the heart of the Church. Today's feast tells us that if we want to go forward, we need to turn back: to begin anew from the crib, from the Mother who holds God in her arms.

Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life. Looking to the Mother, we are asked to leave behind all sorts of useless baggage and to rediscover what really matters. The gift of the Mother, the gift of every mother and every woman, is most precious for the Church, for she too is mother and woman. While a man often abstracts, affirms and imposes ideas, a woman, a mother, knows how to "keep", to put things together in her heart, to give life. If our faith is not to be reduced merely to an idea or a doctrine, all of us need a mother's heart, one which knows how to keep the tender love of God and to feel the heartbeat of all around us. May the Mother, God's finest human creation, guard and keep this year, and bring the peace of her Son to our hearts and to our world.



PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday—Friday: 9:00am—1:00pm
96 Shamrock Street, Palmerston North 4412
06 358 3667; Fax 06 358 8817
ololpn@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 Jan 14th: 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42.

ROSTERS: January

Church Cleaning: TBA.

Counting: (Jan 15th) TBA.

Flowers: Mary Dorn (coordinator).

Greeters: Vigil 5:30pm Catherine and Tom Edwards

8am John Lynch and Dianne Whittaker 10am Kapatiran Group.

Readers: Vigil 5:30pm Moya Booth 8am Pat Burton and Brian Wilkinson

10am Wendy Derksen and Diane Bauke.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Commissioned Parish Ministers to volunteer.

Altar Servers: 10am: Holidays.

Children's Liturgy: Holidays.

Hospitality: 10am KPF Group

Religious Goods/Library: Closed over the holiday period.

Linen: Catherine Kearins (first two weeks of Jan).

Lawns: (Jan 6th) Tino Pakome.