



## Priest Ministers

Fr Joe Grayland (Pastor)

Fr Kevin Neal

Presbytery: 06 358 3667

Cell: 027 777 8096

[ololpastor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ololpastor@xtra.co.nz)

## OLOL MASSES

5:30pm Vigil (Saturday)

9:30am Sunday

Mon & Thurs Liturgy of Word & Communion

Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 10:00am

## SACRED HEART RONGOTEA

9:00am: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

## ST MARY'S FOXTON MASSES

10:30am Sun

10:30am Thurs

## ST JOSEPH'S SHANNON MASSES

9:00am 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

## RECONCILIATION—OLOL

Sat 10:30am—11:00am

and on request

## EUCCHARIST ADORATION—OLOL

Fri: 10:30am—Noon

7:00pm—9:00pm

## 2nd Sunday of Lent—17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Year C / Weekdays Year 1

### From the Pastors Desk

The readings for today lead us to contemplate how we image God and how that image informs our faith, our awareness of God's presence, and our fear of God. While God is always "other", in the sense of being beyond us, above us, greater than us, God is also revealed in Jesus as brother, friend, companion and personal saviour. The balance of these two is integral to a healthy, adult faith.

Sometimes the joke is made, that after shaking the hand of a famous person one will never wash that hand again. In the Gospel something similar happens. After the transformation event Peter says: "Lord, it is good for us to be here; so let us build three tents one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While this is a reference to the Jewish feast of *Sukkoth*, an ancient harvest festival, it is also the desire to freeze-frame the experience of God, which is criticised by the evangelists as: "he did not know what he was saying".

The point is simple: God cannot be contained in an experience, in a prayer form, or in a building. God is dynamic and the experience of God is lived, it is not an artefact of faith. We're challenged to accept the experience as an insight. The scripture warns us not to idolise our religious experiences, prayer forms or buildings. The experience of God is dynamic, and it should change over time.

The presence of the apostles during Jesus' transformation, the invitation to Abram to put his trust in the Lord, and St Paul's admonition to remain faithful to the resurrection, all point towards a faith in God that is intimate, personal and trust-based.

In a trust-based faith there must be an evolution from a childhood belief to an adult one. An adult believer must accept the invitation to be real in their faith-life. They must decide at some point not to hide from God and to be themselves in the presence of God, just as they must decide to be themselves and not hide in the presence of others. An adult faith, like an adult life, is multifaceted and it is full of ambiguity. It is the integration of each element that leads to wisdom and faith. In the ambiguity one seeks maturity.

Adulthood is the integration of one's workaday world, intimate love life, beliefs and values and one's religious practice into a single reality. The process of integration is the task of adulthood. It is the task of being human and of being called to holiness: **who you are is who God wants you to be!** Coming to that truth, and rejoicing in it, is the task of the believer. You are God's greatest work of Art – give thanks through not trying to be someone, or something, you are not!

Ironically, the religious experience and the religious building are both acute expressions of the absence of God. The religious experience passes, and one is, again, quickly aware of the absence of God. The building is transitory, because "the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands" (Acts 7:48-50). The challenge is to constantly find God in the ordinary, in the heart of the community that is fallen, weak, sinful, and that is called to holiness.

Peter's plan is flawed because it comes from his fear of loss. He is frightened that if he lets this moment go, he'll never get another chance to be this close to God; he wants to hold on to it and make it his defining religious moment: he wants to idolise it. He's like an adult who wants to hold onto the safety of mummy or daddy's faith, or thinking; it is illusory. Instead, he should live his faith in a dynamic relationship to God-in-Christ, where knowing and not-knowing are equally present. He is called to live his faith in the real world, where his life experiences become the source of his wisdom and faith, not on the rarefied mountain, as a spectator of divine theatre.

Fear of not having a religious life often drives people to develop odd religious behaviours. Heightened religiosity is the haven of those who are hiding from their own lives. They create a false religious world, built on their own needs and fears. These private religious worlds often become obsessive and deeply unhealthy. You know you're in one when the only thing you can talk about is religion, when you're worrying if you've said enough prayers, when you feel that you're the only one praying. Family and friends know you're in one, when they stay away from you, avoid the subject of religion or faith, feel pressured to conform to your religiosity, and pressured to pray in your ways. In this scenario the relationship between real life and the living God has been lost. At the deepest level one is hiding from God and from oneself.

The foundational truth is that God cannot be captured and manipulated to be a "type" of deity that suits my personal needs. While God is my personal saviour, God is not my personalised deity. Here is the clarion call to return to the ancient Hebrew understanding of salvation and resurrection, namely that I am saved as a member of a people. I am not saved as an individual, without being in communion with others. Community is not the optional extra of salvation, it is the ground of salvation, the *sine qua non*, the essential condition of salvation.

Hebrew thinking enables us to avoid the false dualisms so favoured by Hellenistic thinking. The philosophical dualisms of body/soul, dark/light, salvation/damnation, good/bad belief/non-belief enable us to understand a concept, nevertheless they remain the tools of understanding and they are not realities in themselves. Belief and unbelief is not a dualism to be struggled with, rather the integration of them into a lived reality is the key to wisdom. It is not just my soul that is saved, but my body too and with it all the experiences of personhood I have lived.

Jesus' transfiguration was an experience of the divine and the human together; his death is a human and a divine experience, his resurrection is an experience of his body and his spirit.

In God, the wondrous, there are no games to be played, only truth to be sought and wisdom to be found.

Fr Joe

**Dear friends at Our Lady of Lourdes:** My brother John and I, plus our extended families, want to thank you all for the loving care you have offered to Peter over these last few years while in Palmerston North. He enjoyed the work he was offered both with the Marist Fathers and with Vaughn Leslie and Joseph Grayland. After his life as a Missionary in Fiji for 35 years it was lovely to see him enjoying his retirement and we are grateful to +Charles for making him welcome in this diocese. He made a home here and felt settled. In particular he loved the Wednesday morning tea gathering, especially the Louise cake. The highlight for him was his involvement in the Rongotea community. Everyone made him feel welcome.

He was a stoic person, simple in his needs yet complicated by his temperament. We will never know how he suffered with the undiagnosed cancer he had. He is now at peace. What a wonderful farewell the Parish and the Marist community gave him on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. There were so many strands of his life present at his farewell.

Thank you for the loving support he enjoyed by being part of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

*Josie Snook (Fr Peter's sister)*

**First Reconciliation process for OLOL has begun and the Sacrament will be celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> April – any children from Rongotea need to be in this parish process. Next meeting, for parents and children, Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March after 9:30am Mass in the Church.**

**Key Dates to keep free:**

- **First Reconciliation April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**
- **Baptism, Easter Vigil (20<sup>th</sup> April) beginning at 8.30pm or Easter Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> April) Morning Mass, 9:30am**
- **First Holy Communion, Pentecost Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 9:30am.**
- **Children's ministry Mass, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Font at OLOL** this is progressing – the colour chosen by the majority of people is Royal Blue so this has been given to the fibreglass manufacturers. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the process. The font will be fibre glassed then it will be given to the joiner to cap it with rimu before being installed and plumbed in. To heat the font an infinity system will be purchased and installed in the Hall Kitchen, with the agreement of the School Board. This will provide additional hot water to the kitchen and hot water to the font when needed. This is a practical use of resources and solves two needs: additional hot water for the kitchen and hot water for the font.

**Chant is the primal voice of prayer.** You're welcome to attend 3 prayer-shops on singing chant for liturgy and prayer. The prayer-shops will be an opportunity to sing and explore your voice as the primary instrument of worship and prayer. This is for those who like to sing and want to learn and experience their own voice. It is not a professional singing lesson or an audition for a choir!

**Where: OLOL Church TIME: 7:00pm-8:00pm**

**When: Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March, Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April and Wed 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**Facilitator: Joe Grayland**

**ST VINNIES** Thank you to parishioners for your regular food donations which support people in need in our city. We would particularly welcome donations of pasta, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, spreads, rice, dried fruit, snacks for school lunches, small packs of tea & coffee.

**Joshua Men's Group next meeting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 7:00pm St Mary's church foyer. Speaker—Fr Robin Kurian. Prayer, praise, worship, fellowship. Supper to follow. All welcome. For information contact John 027 6887750 [www.joshua.org.nz](http://www.joshua.org.nz)**

**OLOL Readers Workshop March 31<sup>st</sup> 3:00pm at OLOL Church with Lynette Roberts King. All readers invited.**

**Study with the Catholic Institute of Aotearoa (TCI) NZ in 2019**

TCI is committed to providing opportunities for people to know more about their faith. We have a wide range of courses available at distance, online, and face to face in the Diocese's pastoral areas. Please see your parish notice board or go online to [www.tci.ac.nz](http://www.tci.ac.nz) If you have any questions contact Rosalie Connors [r.connors@tci.ac.nz](mailto:r.connors@tci.ac.nz) or 06 354 1780 ext 830.

**Leaders for Children's Liturgy – Opportunity to help**

We have a great ministry to children at the 9:30am children's liturgy and it is growing. We need new leaders to step up and support this Sunday ministry to younger parishioners. You'll work alongside other leaders. But it is open to all parishioners and we'd like High School students to help too, as well as mums and dads and grandparents to consider this.

**Do you: enjoy being with the children?; want to share the scriptures with others?; want to see the parish grow?; want to support younger parishioners in their faith lives?; want to minister as a team member?**

If you can say YES to all or many of the above then sign up in the foyer!

*Fr Joe*



**Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent**

**5:00pm St Mary's Ruahine St.,**

**7:00pm St Columba's Ashhurst.**

**Readings 24<sup>th</sup> March**

**Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36.**

**Voices to MP's Rally:** Everyone is invited to join & support **Pacific People say NO to the End of Life Choice Bill.** The Select Committee is due to report back to Parliament at the end of the month so it is time to gather together & urge Member's of Parliament to vote against this Bill. All are welcome. Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 11:00am-2:00pm Parliament Grounds.

**Kapatiran Group—PN BRANCH—ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT**  
**30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 SATURDAY—The Diocesan Centre- Te Rau Aroha**  
**33 Amesbury Street PN. Programme and registration in foyer.**



**Diocesan Youth Team:** Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March Pub Night at the Celtic Inn after 6:00pm Mass. It is St Patricks Day so wear your green! See you in the Cathedral foyer after Mass or at the Celtic 7:15pm!

**See noticeboard in gathering area for full details of:**

- **Prison Chaplain job vacancy full-time position.**
- **Housing Tenancy Manager job vacancy with Legacy Housing**
- **Red Cross Refugee Support Volunteers next training course.**
- **Aglow monthly meeting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Voice for Life** is currently hosting an online campaign "We Deserve Better". Look up #wedeseverbetter & #conversationsaboutabortion on Facebook. **For more pro-life info, visit the Voice for Life website [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

**Have you seen OLOL Facebook page yet? Like us on FB**

**ROSTERS: March 18<sup>th</sup>—24<sup>th</sup>**

**Church Cleaning:** (March 18<sup>th</sup>) Pat Curran and Prue Smith

**Counters:** (March 19<sup>th</sup>) Gabrielle Barnes and Jane Charlton

**Greeters: Vigil 5:30pm** Suneal & Beverly Singh **9:30am** Dianne Jordan

**Children's Liturgy:** (24<sup>th</sup>) Lorraine Wilson and Donna Brown

**Readers: 5:30pm** Dot Bowe, Judith Wall, Rob Towers

**9:30am** Iveta Griffin, Meg de Joux, David Griffin

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: 5:30pm** John Werder, Monica Hammond, Hannah Brown, Dennis Jones, Pat Curran **9:30am** Jeanette & Eric Wright, Kyra Tikitiki, Stephen Guy, Wendy Derksen.

**Altar Servers: 9:30am** Teresa Alexander and Isla Hyde

**Hospitality: 9:30am** Tokelauan Group

**Linen:** (March) Maureen Murphy

**Lawns:** (Mar 16<sup>th</sup>) Tino and Son.

**Religious Goods Cabinet:** Wally Semmens

**SVDP Basket:** (March) Rose Semmens.

**We Pray for the Sick:** Ron Gleeson, Ryan Marsden, Fr Joe O'Sullivan, Fr Tom O'Connor sm, Sheila Evans, Vinnie Carroll, Tony Keenan, Oliver Gillespie, Trevor Wilson, Michael Eades, Joan Lambourne, Barbara & Graeme Younger, Louis Heynen, Michael Quirk, Colin Quirk, Gary Meyer, Evie Feierabend, Mary Jefferies, Katherine Denby, Marie Hubbard, Mikulas Oros, Ann Fairclough, Toshi Sekizaki, Braxton Prentice, Anne & Bill Bethune.

**Mass has been offered for recently deceased**

Helmut Hauck RIP, (Nordenham, Germany)