

Next Sunday 23 August - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: The prophet Isaiah 22:19-23 PSALM: 137
Second: Letter to the Romans 11:33-36 Gospel: MATTHEW 16:13-20

PRAYER IN CHARITY WE PRAY FOR Phillip Cooper, Tom Gerrard, Rosalind Halpin and Anne O'Sullivan **who died recently** and Mercy Catacutan **whose anniversary occurs**
PRAYER FOR THE SICK Nila Teves, Troy Angelo Madrigal, Fr Martin Bugler, Celia & John McLoughlin, Chris McEntee, Annabelle Sia, Cath Mallon, Anne White, Clara Jung-Ja Hwang, Paige Donovan-Smith, Gladys Lloyd, Elizabeth Hennelly, Esme Commissaris, Janina Collett, Rima Bennett and Belinda Chamassian

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

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Parish Office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Website: www.takapunacatholic.org.nz

SHINE TV broadcasts
Sunday Mass from 2.00pm

Free-to-air Channel 25,
Sky TV channel 201
Continuing until further notice.

LEGION OF MARY

- ♦ Pray the rosary every Saturday before the 9am Mass. Rosary prayer starts at 8.40am.
- ♦ Meet in Flanagan Hall, St. Joseph's Church every Saturday after 9am Mass. For inquiries, email legionofmarytakapuna@gmail.com
- ♦ Join Mother of Perpetual Help Novena every Wednesday at 9.10am at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Milford and at 5.45pm at St. Joseph's Church



ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, 10 DOMINION ST, TAKAPUNA

Sunday Mass Times: 7.30am, 10.30am, 6pm, Saturday 5pm
Youth Mass 3rd Sunday at 6pm
Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday 9.15am
Saturday Mass 9.00am Reconciliation Saturday 9.30am
Exposition and Holy Hour—every Saturday after 9am Mass

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH, CNR FENWICK AVE & SHAKESPEARE RD, MILFORD

Mass - Sunday 9am, Monday to Saturday 10am
Sacrament of Penance and Exposition - after Mass on Friday

Korean Community Mass - every Saturday at 7.30pm
Filipino Community Mass - every 4th Sunday at 4.00pm
Lady Allum Home - 3rd Tuesday of month at 11am

NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL MASS

First Sunday of month: 11.00am

ST JOHN PAUL II - Holy Cross Anglican Church

222 Dairy Flat Highway, Albany, (access via Oteha Valley Rd. Extension)
Mass - Sunday at 5.15pm



16 August 2020

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
God will bring all peoples
into his house of prayer

PSALM 66

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Letter to the ROMANS 11:13-15. 29-32

St Paul brings Christ to pagans
... whilst sad for fellow Jews

GOSPEL— MATTHEW 15:21-28

A foreign mother's faith
wins Jesus' healing



"WOMAN .. YOU HAVE GREAT FAITH"

Hers is the first woman's voice in Matthew
she is from the accursed Canaanites
who fought against Israel.

She is nameless, alone, unprotected
abandoned by her own people.
Her cry to Jesus captures this.

The silence of Jesus;
the rebuff from his disciples
will not stop her.

'Lord, Son of David .. help me!'

She won't accept that Jesus' purpose
is only for the children of Israel.

".. even dogs eat the crumbs
from their master's table."

It is then that Jesus responds
in his humility and greatness
healing her daughter that same hour.

The woman is right.

Do we let our ideas, our duties
allow us to push aside
those already abandoned?

Jesus did not do so.

The Sunday's Gospel can give a headache both to preachers and to people in the pews. Jesus refuses to hear a woman because she is, in his metaphor, one of the "dogs." *Ouch.* You know the story. The Canaanite woman cries out for help and Jesus at first will not even talk to her. The disciples demand that he send her away because she is a trouble maker, and he seems to agree with them. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," he says.

She is from Canaan, not Israel.

Finally the poor woman walks right up, does "homage" to Jesus and says, "Lord, help me." Jesus would never ignore such words, at least so we believe. Nor should we ever be deaf to words like this in our own daily lives.

However, he says to her, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

Ouch indeed. This is the line that is so hard for us to understand. So un-Jesus-like.

There are clues. She first called out to him with the words "Son of David". This is a term hallowed by use in the ancient Hebrew scriptures, always referring to the Messiah. She is a Canaanite, and they did not believe in any Messiah-to-come, especially not one that would descend from David. Yet this woman, against her whole background, seems to have belief in Jesus as Messiah.

She calls him "Lord." In Matthew's Gospel this is an explicit admission that Jesus and God are one. Going just on her language, this is proof that she believed in him as the Saviour. Surely he sensed this.

But Israelites and Canaanite had long been in strife. How could "they" with their strange gods produce a woman who believes in the one God and in Jesus as the Christ? Is it possible that Jesus was drawing her out, teasing her in order to strengthen her belief?

Perhaps he was quoting the word "dogs" as a reference to names the two peoples called each other. Something like this: "my people of Israel believe in the one God and your people do not. How can I give their food to you 'dogs,' as we call you?"

The woman's quick wit provides a wonderful, humble, bantering response that wins the day. "Even dogs eat scraps that fall from their master's table," she says. It is a riposte, a parry, a counter-thrust, and Jesus loves it. She is saying, "It does not matter what a person's status is as long as they believe. And I do believe."

I'll bet Jesus smiled a great smile as he told her how great her faith was. Maybe he laughed at her fast repartee. And of course he gladly gave her what she asked; he cured her daughter.

Remember when we approach Communion and held out our hands and say in effect, "Son of David, have pity on me." This is a paraphrase of the Canaanite woman. Our response is "Amen," which means "I do believe," just like the woman.

Let us mean it when we next attend Mass.

PLANNED GIVING: If you would prefer to set up automatic payment instead of using Planned Giving envelopes go to: **Receiving bank account #: 02-0100-0120990-004, A/C RC Bishop of Auckland-Parish Account Takapuna.** We appreciate your contribution to the life of our community of faith!

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH TEMPORARY CLOSURE FROM MONDAY 31 AUGUST UNTIL FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

Thanks to a generous donor, new flooring will be laid throughout the church. This will require the removal of the altar rails. During the closure Sunday Masses will be celebrated at Rosmini Auditorium:

- ◆ 5 & 6 September
- ◆ 12 & 13 September
- ◆ NO weekday Masses at St Joseph's Church.
- ◆ ALL weekday Masses from Monday 31 August until Friday 18 September will be celebrated at St Vincent de Paul Church, Milford at 10am and Sunday Mass at 9am.

Apologies for the disruption, but I think we'll be grateful that our 54 year old church is being given some freshness. Hopefully, over the next year, there will be further work to enhance the beauty of St Joseph's Church, and enable it to serve better our community of faith, for a further 50 years.

THE DIOCESAN MISSION MAP (Pastoral Plan) will be officially launched on the first Sunday of Advent. All parishioners are welcome to an unpacking session **29 AUGUST 9.30AM TO 3.30PM**, St Columba Centre, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby. B.Y.O: Enthusiasm, Interest, Questions, Lunch. A chance to find out what is happening and be part of the response.

WHEAT BAGS

(Ideal for aches and pains and warming small fingers and toes!) will be on sale for \$10 each after all Masses at St Joseph's Church on a weekend soon. All proceeds from the sale will go to Caritas Aotearoa NZ to protect and promote the poor and marginalized in our communities amid the global pandemic. There is a fabulous range of fabrics for all ages.

CARITAS HELPING AMIDST APOCALYPTIC SCENES IN LEBANON

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is sending a solidarity grant from their Peace in the Middle East fund. Anyone who is interested in contributing to the support for Lebanon can donate online at caritas.org.nz or over the phone by calling 0800 22 10 22.

THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOR THE ELECT AND THE FULL ACCEPTANCE FOR THE CANDIDATE



Shall be celebrated on a Sunday Mass once we are back in Level 1.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2020

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND THE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED IN ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

ON A DATE AND TIME AFTER WE GET OUT OF THE LOCKDOWNS. THE PARISH OFFICE SHALL GIVE UPDATE TO THE PARENTS



LITURGY CONFERENCE, WORSHIPPING UNDER SOUTHERN SKIES: WEAVING TOGETHER LITURGY AND LIFE, TO BE HELD AT BARADENE COLLEGE FROM 1ST - 3RD OCTOBER

This Conference brings together excellent keynote speakers and a variety of Breakout Sessions to choose from. Have a look at the website <https://wuss.org.nz/> 2,000 years ago, a woman came to a well, expecting to get just a little water. She was deeply touched and left the well a changed woman. This Conference will be a well on our journey: a time to grow deeper in faith, to grow stronger in community, to grow richer in love, more vibrant in our communal prayer and celebration of the liturgy. We will discover anew the rhythm of liturgy feeding into our daily life, our daily life returning to be nourished by the liturgy of the Church. It will be a time to pause, ponder and rejoice in the richness of the mystery of God, a time of newness in our journey of faith.