

Next Sunday 30 August - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: The book of Jeremiah 20:7-9 PSALM: 62
Second: Letter to the Romans 12:1-2 Gospel: MATTHEW 16:21-27

PRAYER IN CHARITY WE PRAY FOR Nila Teves **who died recently** and Noel Finnegan, Mons. John Kelly, Robert Thomson, Bill Lynsay, Edward Hurtubise, John Mc Kay **whose anniversaries occur**

PRAYER FOR THE SICK Anna Gancenja, 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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During level 3, the parish office is closed, but the answerphone is checked regularly. Our priests are available for your support – phone the presbytery on 09 489 6338.

Email: stjosephstakapuna@xtra.co.nz Website: www.takapunacatholic.org.nz

During Covid level 3, our churches remain closed, and there are NO public Masses.

Once we return to level 2, we will be able to celebrate public Masses again. In level 2, we observe social distancing in the church, and a maximum of 100 people in one space. This means we will be unable to celebrate Mass in the Milford church until we return to level 1.

If we return to level 2 this coming week, Sunday Masses, all at St Joseph's church, on August 29/30 will be celebrated at Saturday 5pm, and Sunday 7.30am, 9.15am, 11am and 6pm – some revised times, to allow for sanitising of the church between Masses. We'll have 100 people in the church, 100 in the hall, and any overflow in the school hall, with Mass live-streamed from the church.

Once back in level 2, we'll return to weekday Masses at St Joseph's church only. They will be at 9.15am - and 9am on Saturday followed by Reconciliation at 9.30am. We cannot use Milford church in level 2.

We are scheduled to close St Joseph's church for two weeks, from Monday 31 August, so that new flooring can be laid. However, with the current Covid level restrictions, we are still to confirm that the flooring can be laid as planned. We will keep you posted about the arrangement for Masses during the period 31 August to 18 September.

NZCatholic Below is a link from the latest issue of NZ Catholic. Seeing that we are again at Covid-19 alert levels 2 or 3, there will be no deliveries of the current print issue of NZ Catholic to parishes. However, as we did last time at these alert levels, the latest version of NZ Catholic is being made available free of charge. <https://indd.adobe.com/view/3c9e92b5-0dd7-45ad-b33f-286618e52857>



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 August 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah 22:19-23

The need for integrity
in all who hold 'keys of office'

PSALM 137

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

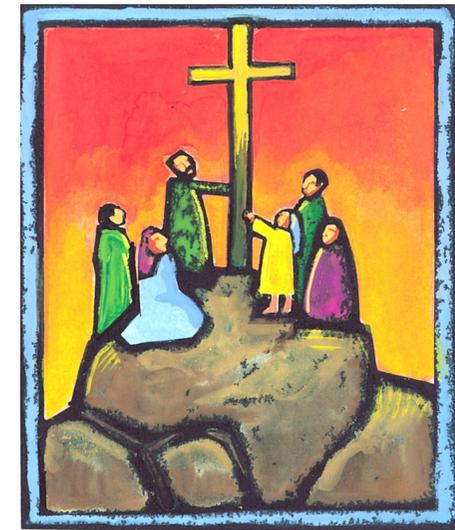
The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

Letter to the ROMANS 11:33-36

Human praise and awe, before
the deep riches of God's wisdom

GOSPEL— MATTHEW 16:13-20

Simon Peter comes to faith in Jesus!
He is invested with the keys
of heaven



ACKNOWLEDGE HIM ... WITH YOUR LIFE

"Who do you say I am?"
We tend to reply with phrases repeated
for centuries .. 'Saviour!' 'Redeemer!' ...

We learn them at any early age
we believe in Jesus out of custom
a pious disposition, or upbringing.

We must understand the originality of
his life, the newness of his call
be inspired by his freedom.
We must follow the path he traced.

Christians can live with instinctive religiosity
yet have no experience of what is
to be nourished by Jesus.

They may be guardians of the faith, orthodoxy
yet not know personally
the dynamic Spirit of Jesus.

Let's not fool ourselves - each of us
has to stand before Jesus
listen to his words in our deepest being.

"Who am I truly for you all?"

The answer must be seen,
not in sublime words
but in the quality of our lives.

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO US ON 19 AUGUST 2020

The pandemic has exposed the plight of the poor and the great inequality that reigns in the world. While Covid 19 does not distinguish between people, its devastating path has revealed great inequalities and discrimination. We need a twofold response to the pandemic. On the one hand, it is essential to find a cure for the virus, which has brought the whole world to its knees. On the other, we must also cure a larger virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalisation, and the lack of protection for the weakest.

In this twofold response for healing there is a choice that, according to the Gospel, cannot be lacking: the preferential option for the poor. The preferential option for the poor is at the centre of the Gospel. It was the way of Jesus. Though He was rich, He made Himself poor to enrich us. He emptied himself, to share human life with us (Phil 2:6-7). He announced that in the Kingdom of God the poor are blessed. He stood among the sick, the poor, the excluded, showing them God's merciful love. And many times He was judged an unclean man because He went to the sick, to lepers.

Therefore, Jesus' followers recognise themselves by their closeness to the poor, the little ones, the sick and the imprisoned, the excluded and the forgotten, those without food and clothing. Some mistakenly think that this preferential love for the poor is a task for the few, but in reality it is the mission of the Church as a whole.

The preference for those most in need implies walking together, letting ourselves be evangelised by them, who know the suffering Christ well, letting ourselves be "infected" by their experience of salvation, by their wisdom and by their creativity. Sharing with the poor means mutual enrichment.

And, if there are unhealthy social structures that prevent them from dreaming of the future, we must work together to heal them, to change them. We are led in this by the love of Christ, who reached out to the boundaries, the people on the margins. He brought the peripheries to the centre.

We are all worried about the social consequences of the pandemic. Many people want to return to normality and resume economic activities. This "normality" should not include social injustices and the degradation of the environment. The pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse. We must come out of it better, to counter social injustice and environmental damage. Today we have an opportunity to build something different. For example, we can nurture an economy of the integral development of the poor. I do not wish to condemn the importance of aid to the poor, but we must go beyond this, to resolve the problems that lead us to provide aid.

Let's promote an economy that does not resort to remedies that in fact poison society, such as profits not linked to the creation of dignified jobs. This type of profit brings no benefit to the common people. Also, profit for the sake of greed is often indifferent to the environmental damage inflicted to our common home.

The preferential option for the poor inspires us to conceive of and design an economy where people, and especially the poorest, are at the centre. And it also encourages us to plan the distribution of virus vaccines by prioritising those who are most in need. It would be sad if priority for a vaccine were to be given to the richest! It would be sad if a vaccine were to become the property of this nation or another, rather than universal and for all. And what a scandal it would be if all the economic assistance governments are offering were to focus on rescuing those industries that do not contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, the promotion of the least, the common good or the care of creation.

We must act now, to heal the epidemics caused by small, invisible viruses, and to heal those caused by the great and visible social injustices. I propose that this be done by starting from the love of God, placing the peripheries at the centre and the last in first place. A healthier world will be possible. Otherwise, we will come out of the crisis worse. May the Lord help us!

POSTPONED :

UNPACKING THE MISSION MAP (PASTORAL PLAN) that was to be held on 29 August has been postponed to 14 November.

LITURGY CONFERENCE

All members of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland community are warmly invited to the **Liturgy Conference**, **Worshipping under Southern Skies: Weaving Together Liturgy and Life**, to be held at Baradene College from 1st – 3rd October.

Excellent keynote speakers, with a variety of Breakout Sessions. See <https://wuss.org.nz/>. This will be a time to grow deeper in faith, to grow stronger in community, richer in love, more vibrant in our communal prayer and celebration of the liturgy.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Te Kupenga–Catholic Leadership Institute is seeking a Marketing and Business Development Advisor to build the profile of the organisation, which was formed on 1 January by the merger of Good Shepherd College and The Catholic Institute (TCI). The role is Auckland-based and fixed term full-time for two years. Full details: <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/50415919>

**SHINE TV broadcasts
SUNDAY Mass from 2pm.
Free-to-air Channel 25,
Sky TV Channel 201.**

**This week from the Cathedral
of St Patrick and St Joseph
with Bishop Michael Gielen.**

**Also available to download from
6pm Saturday on the diocesan
website [https://
www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/](https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/)**

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PRAYER TREE
Please contact Rose Muir if you would like prayers said for a relative or friend in ill health or need (09) 486 0070.

PARISH UPDATE

Devonport and Takapuna Parish Councils met together for the first time on Monday 17 August, using Zoom. There was a total of 22 participants, who all communicated very fruitfully.

There was broad agreement that it is the people who make a parish, and that structures need to support people to strengthen and grow in faith. Assurance was given that, in bringing the parishes together, there is absolutely no thought of closing the church in Devonport.

The two Councils readily identified key areas in which the parishes could work more closely together: Youth ministry, RCIA, and Faith Enrichment Programmes. It was felt that the sooner we can start doing things together, the better to build trusting relationships. We would in effect be making the path by walking, in a slow and natural change process. Both Parishes are working on their draft Pastoral Plans at present. The next step is to compare these drafts and work out practical details around common ideas. There may be a small joint working group formed to help progress.

The two parish councils ask for your continuing prayers, for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this journey of collaboration.

RETREAT MORNING LED BY FR. JOHN O'CONNOR St Francis & All Souls Catholic Church, Devonport Saturday 12 September

Beginning with 9.00am Mass followed by first retreat session, then time for silent reflection and prayer and a cuppa, followed by a second session with the retreat concluding at 12 noon.

Perhaps you have made many retreats, or you may have never had the opportunity. My experience is that whenever we give God and opportunity to work in our lives, God never misses the chance.

I invite you to join me, perhaps bring a friend or two. For more information contact John - john@fff.org.nz

MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Here's a prayer to help:

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

