

Next Sunday 6 September - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: The prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9 PSALM: 94
Second: Letter to the Romans 13:8-10 Gospel: MATTHEW 18:15-20

PRAYER IN CHARITY WE PRAY FOR Maurice Boland, Elizabeth Holt, Aquilino Culanag, Vera Purkis, Juergen Schoesser, Gerald Candy **whose anniversaries occur**

PRAYER FOR THE SICK Heather Gannon, Anna Gancenina, Troy Angelo Madrigal, Fr Martin Bugler, Celia & John McLoughlin, Chris McEntee, Annabelle Sia, Cath Mallon, Anne White, Clara Jung- Hwang, Paige Donovan-Smith, Gladys Lloyd, Elizabeth Hennelly, Esme Commissaris, Janina Collett, Rima Bennett and Belinda Chamassian

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

Mons. David Tonks *davidtonks@cda.org.nz* Presbytery Phone: 489 6338
Fr Carlo Cruz *ap@stjosephstakapuna.co.nz* Presbytery & Office address:
Mark Napa *marknapa@gmail.com* 10 Dominion St, Takapuna, 0622
Deacon Stephen Fraser *stephenf@kidzcan.co.nz* 021 439 407
Edwin Macmac *pastoralworker@stjosephstakapuna.co.nz*
Parish Office 489 6486, 486 6767 – Opens on Monday!
Email: stjosephstakapuna@xtra.co.nz Website: www.takapunacatholic.org.nz

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

This week from St Joseph's Church, Takapuna with Mons. David Tonks & Fr Carlo Cruz and seminarians Mark Napa and Joseph Pham.

Also available to download from 6pm Saturday on the diocesan website
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>

TIPIOUNAMU STUDY & JOY

Online Session (Evening): Mary, the Mother of God – A Contemporary Understanding of Mary with Br Kieran Fenn, Monday, 31 August, 7-8.30pm: Mary in Paul, Mark, and Matthew. Fee: \$25/session. Special fees for groups of more than 2 persons. ZOOM. For more information and reg: info@studyjoy.nz See also: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-teaching-mary-mother-of-god-i-with-kieran-fenn-fms-3/>

Online Session (Retreat Day): Homecoming – A Journey of Transformation (Prodigal Son) with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 19 September, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60. For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-the-prodigal-son/>

During Covid level 3, our churches remained closed, and there were NO public Masses.

Once we return to level 2, we are still unable to celebrate public Masses again for the time being. As soon as this changes you will be advised by Newsletter, email, App and Website.

We are scheduled to close St Joseph's Church for two weeks, from tomorrow Monday, 31 August until Friday, 18 September, so that new flooring can be laid. We will keep you posted about the arrangement for Masses during this period.



30 August 2020

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Jeremiah 20:7-9
Jeremiah feels 'violated, seduced' by God's call!

PSALM 62

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

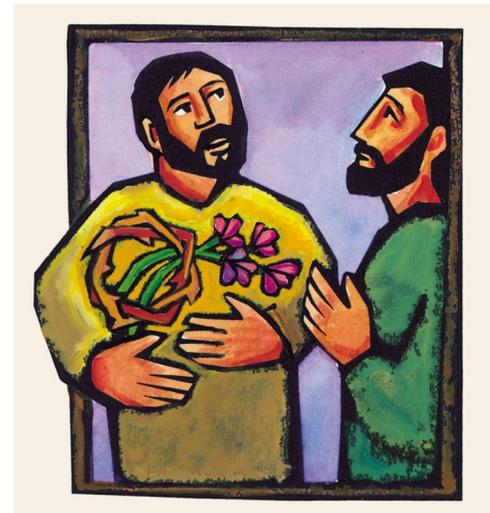
For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Letter to the ROMANS 12:1-2

*Our baptised bodies are a
'living, breathing sacrifice to God'*

GOSPEL— MATTHEW 16:21-27

*God's son must suffer greatly
.. so too each of his followers*



YES

You are the God who is for us.
You have committed yourself to us.
You have said yes to us
yes in "creation", yes "in our birth"
yes in "our baptism"
yes in "our awakening this day".

But we are of another kind,
more "perhaps, maybe, we'll see"
left in wonderment and ambiguity.

We live our lives not back
to your yes
but out of our endless "perhaps".

We ask for your mercy this day
that we may live yes back to you.

Yes with our time, our money.
Yes with our sexuality.
Yes with our strength, our weakness.
Yes to our neighbour.
Yes and no longer "perhaps".

Through Jesus who is our yes
into your future.

Walter Brueggemann

On Pope Francis – last Sunday's homily of retired Bishop Peter Cullinane of Palmerston North

The gospel we have just heard (Matthew 16:13-19) features Jesus giving a special ministry to Peter: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church; I give you the keys of the kingdom, whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven".

From elsewhere in the New Testament we see this in context: the Church "is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus himself as the cornerstone" (Eph.2:20)

Let us imagine ourselves there with the disciples, standing in awe of the tremendous authority Jesus gave to Peter. But let's remember also that this gospel was written some years after Peter had died – the Christian community knew that the ministry given to Peter lives on, beyond Peter's own lifetime, in Peter's successors: today, Pope Francis.

To him, we owe the same respect that was due to Peter – not based on any merits of Peter, or of Francis, but based on what Jesus had spoken.

Let us also stand with our grand-parents or whoever first taught us to appreciate this treasure of Catholic faith.

But we remember too, that just as there are differences between how our grand-parents said and did things, and how we do, so too, Popes of different generations have different styles – it all belongs to being human.

For centuries we have been used to Popes who spoke mainly to give answers. Suddenly, we have a Pope who also asks questions! Not about revealed truths, of course, but about human behaviour.

Some take fright at this – especially people who look for order, clarity, predictability, and someone to tell them what to do. They think that if a Pope asks questions it suggests uncertainty, or causes "confusion".

But no: Pope Francis knows that it's through questioning and dialogue and walking the journey together, that people grow to maturity, and don't get stuck in infantile dependency.

Pope Francis has good reason for his different style: over recent decades there has emerged a greater appreciation of the respect due to persons, and to people's consciences. This requires that people be given the information they need to make informed judgments, and the space they need to freely choose what is good and right – rather than it being simply imposed.

Some of Pope Francis' critics like to contrast him with Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. But they conveniently overlook that Pope Francis is building on what Pope St John Paul II had already taught. It was John Paul who said "the Church's teaching authority is at the service of conscience"; in other words, it upholds the sovereignty of conscience, it doesn't render conscience superfluous.

It was also Pope John Paul II who taught what he called "the law of gradualness"; this means recognising that people's ability to fully comply with the moral law develops gradually; for some faster, for some more slowly.

This is why Pope Francis often speaks of taking people where they "are at" – not starting from where they should be, but from where they are – and accompanying them on the journey to where they should be. And while on the journey, they are not sinning if they are doing the best they can for now, and praying for better.

So when Pope Francis asks whether Eucharist is for people not yet fully complying with the moral law – who would if they could – he is not questioning the Church's teaching, but simply taking account of gradualness in their ability to comply fully, and asking whether Eucharist is only for those who already comply fully, or also for those who are trying to get there.

It is rather Pope Francis' critics who question, and even reject, Church teachings – especially people who are protecting their own business or ideological interests. Some of them even say: 'the Church's job is to save souls; people's social and economic lives are none of the Church's business'.

Here too, Pope Francis' teaching is in line with the teaching of his predecessors. His critics are also very selective in what they accept from the social encyclicals of Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Perhaps it is the gospel itself that they need to look at more closely.

When it comes to the tone of their criticisms, sadly, the bitterness, divisiveness, deceptiveness and scapegoating are all tell-tale signs that their agenda are not from the Holy Spirit. There is another spirit at work. The same gospel we heard says the gates of the underworld will not prevail. But they will try!

Take this as a sure guide: wherever evil is at work, sooner or later it over-reaches, can't hide its ugly face, and discredits itself.

That's why Pope Francis doesn't always bother to respond to his critics. But he prays for them.

Many are good people, sometimes troubled people, but people in need of compassion.

Let us honour Pope Francis by praying for him, and praying with him for those who criticise him.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION 1st September the start of "Season of Creation" From Laudato Si', A Prayer for our Earth: "All-powerful God,

you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Amen". Pope Francis has officially invited the faithful to participate in this annual "season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home". Further information and resources can be found at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/justice-peace/environment-sustainability-committee/>

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, a variety of Breakout Sessions. See <https://wuss.org.nz/> A short video of invitation from the director of the National Liturgy Office for sending out, posting on FaceBook etc. <https://youtu.be/fZpxFU3z40>

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY FROM 29 AUGUST TO 8 SEPTEMBER

have been cancelled due to Level 2 restrictions, which include no gatherings over 50 people. Therefore, St Mary's Parish, Avondale are unable to host the Novena, Rosary and Holy Mass due to Covic virus restrictions. Thank you for your kind support. Helen D'souza

*"Hey Everyone! Unfortunately, due to lockdown we have had to postpone **Dessert and Dancing** until the end of the year (date TBC). For those of you who have already purchased tickets, don't worry! You can either request a refund or hold onto your ticket for the later date!*

Thank you for all your support and we'll see you soon!"

*God bless!
Youth team*

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

ST PIO OF PIETRELICINA PRAYER GROUP

Meeting this Thursday 3 September in the Flanagan Lounge. Ph. Ron Hunter 489.1008 or Ronhunter@xtra.co.nz