



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL
NEWSLETTER
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastor's Note

At the heart of our relationship with God is the knowledge that we are loved and forgiven. What we sometimes fail to appreciate is how great that forgiveness is.

Minimising our faults is a pretty basic human characteristic. Most of us start it in childhood – and we carry on. What I did wasn't really that bad, and so on. It's not's very attractive, and it also makes it all too easy to carry on to somewhere worse. Because we tend not to be so good at minimising the sins of others. As a result, we tend to regard the failings of others with a much less charitable eye than our own.

Jesus was addressing this in his famous call to take a plank out of our own eye before looking for specks in others'. The parable of the man who owed 10000 talents is giving us that same message. Neither of these passages is calling us to think of our own sins as worse than anyone else's, however. Rather they are to teach us just how profound God's mercy is.

The sum of 10000 talents was, in Jesus's day, an insane amount. The rough equivalent today, in terms of an average day's wages, is several billion dollars. When the man says "give me time and I will repay you", he is speaking nonsense. He would never be able to pay the sum, no matter what he did, and yet he is freely forgiven. In the same way the Lord's gift of sharing in the divine life, of being as St John teaches us, "like Him for we shall see him as he really is", is far beyond our ability to pay. And yet it is freely given to us.

Free gift though it is, it also calls us to respond. Not in repayment, which is beyond our capacity, but in giving on, which each of us can do. It is why we say in the Our Father, forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

It is worth noting that this task isn't as simple as it looks. In contrast to 10000 talents, 100 denarii seems very little. And it is. But in Jesus's day, one denarius was the standard daily wage for a working man. Imagine the sum of one hundred days work at the minimum wage – about four months' pay, when you include weekends. If someone owed you that much – you'd want it back to. You'd get pretty grumpy, unless you recalled how much you owed.

This teaching isn't about "not sweating the little things", but rather a reminder that even the bigger things – those things we find hardest to forgive – need to be seen in the light of what God has given, and forgiven, us. It is a real challenge in other words, but one that Our Lord makes clear we have to embrace.

Blessings ~ Fr Chris Denham

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7** In refusing to forgive those who have sinned against us, we exclude ourselves from receiving God's forgiveness for our own sins.

~ **Psalm 102** The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

~ **Romans 14:7-9** The entire existence of a Christian is for Christ and for others.

~ **Gospel Matthew 18:21-35** We must be willing to extend to others the generous forgiveness God has extended to us.

Next Week's readings: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 144; Philippians 1:20-24.27; Matthew 20:1-16

For Sunday and weekday readings see: mobilegabriel.com AND www.livingtheword.org.nz

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:

Ana Laura Robles, Ana Denisse Manjarrez, Patricia Devereaux, Brian Murphy, Christopher Hughes, Alberto Olarte, Sue Bedford, Joe Raymond, Ben Hunt, Ambi Joseph, Ivy Hi, AS, Fr Martin Bugler, Royston Beckham, John & Rosa Williams, Ann Sayegh, Terry Hodge, Marie Mole, Linda Mole, Fr Philip Handforth, Fr Andrei Centeno, Margaret Everett, Sepi Fe'ao, Elizabeth Beckham, Dolly P, Alana North, Chris Dwyer, Maurice Robinson, Kanawhat (Pui) Cheevachit, Yaroslav Khmel, Alice Swann, Linus Broughton, Emy Calma, Sue Wynne Davis, Michael Wong, Patricia Wright, Luigi & Dawn Rocca, Kirei Tua, Maree C, Bonifacio Sanches, Michael Swann, Gavin Alexander, Teana Jones, Mary Bratton, Julie Nicholls, Joy Agon, Chonusi William, Eric & Rachel Smith, Francisco Billinilanz, Benny Clynes, Tom Keane, Sheila Birnie, Lynn Barnett Welsh, Thilsi Vern, Neira, Bunty Hart, Christopher Browne, Barry Spooner, BC, Jon Manson, Anne Telles, Bronwyn Ryan, Nicholas James, Judy Hanna, Maria Martho, Pamela Vincent, Shane McGruddy, Michelle Bergin, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Serena Coughy, Frank Van Nieukerk, Rosa Santos, John Kainuku, Noeline Levick, Jane Ireland, Jin Shu Qin, Jill Hopgood-Luyers, Rosita Galarg, Martin Harriman, Virgilia Velasquez, Wilfred Mansoor, Ann Gordon, Adelaida Sison, Baden McPherson, Shannon Kavanagh, Rosily Chacko, John & Gloria Gillespie.

We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time . . .

Ramon Preeda, Elizabeth Hales, Msgr Pat Ward, Myra Crawford, Maurice Churton, Barbara Bato, Dermot O'Leary, Fr Des Moosman, Ethel Marshall, Mary Herbert, Patricia Yambao, Reynaldo Yambao, Justyn Bianzon, Lenny Hidalgo, Ruby Holland, Maria Boles, Carmel Jefferies, Brian Raju, Don Crawford, Aisla Duffy, Joann Swartz, Aisling Cooke, Juanita Banzon, Esther Gill, Jean Mullan, Kath Allen, Brendan Schollum, Ivan Main, Dianne Molloy, George Fisher, Michael O'Reilly, Wayne Hotton, Lani Sinawari, Eng Hoc Ong, Salvacion Jimenea, Apolinario Castano, Sheila Bamford, Kees van Hassel, Ira Divinagracia, Dorothy James, Ray Buisson, Moira Bryant, Cathy Sheehan, Julie Keesling, Dorothy Jones, Bruce Sherlock, Joe Paraiso, Emma Gill, Marie Early, Mark Gleeson, . . . *Eternal rest grant to them.*

LEVEL 2 AT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Under Alert Level 2.5, there are NO PUBLIC MASSES however the Church will be open for private prayers and devotions. We await the next update from the government this Monday 14 September especially with regards to gatherings.

Please visit our website www.parnellcatholic.org.nz or follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistParnell> for the latest updates.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage everyone to download the NZ Covid tracer app prior to visiting the church or office. QR codes are displayed on the doors and a visitors logbook are also available. The use of face masks although not mandatory is also greatly appreciated especially when coming in for confessions. Church opening times are from 10am to 4pm daily but will be subject to change.

Reconciliation Under Level 2

Thursday 5pm-6pm and Saturday 9.30am-10.30am.

We also ask that those coming to reconciliation wear a face mask or some form of facial covering.

Parnell Parish Office Hours - Under Alert Level 2

Normal office hours resume from Tuesday 1st September.

Tuesday & Wednesday 9.15am-3.15pm

Thursday 9.30am-5.30pm.

***Please email office@parnellcatholic.org.nz ahead of time if you need to come and visit the office.**

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Sunday Mass on TV—Sunday Mass continues to be broadcast at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201.

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

Diocesan Mission Map Meeting Postponed—The Diocesan Mission Map (Pastoral Plan) will be officially launched on the first Sunday of Advent. The unpacking session has been postponed to 14 November, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, St Columba Centre, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby. B.Y.O: Enthusiasm, Interest, Questions, Lunch.

Job Opportunity—Pregnancy Help Inc has a vacancy for Auckland Branch Coordinator

The ideal candidate will be trained in counselling, be IT literate, have good management skills, be willing to commit to achieving great outcomes for vulnerable pregnant women and women in troubled pregnancies.

Email your CV to Kheng Tan kdsdtan@gmail.com.

NZ Catholic - the latest edition is available for free at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/3d006405-1cb7-4d8a-9bf7-b0c140727602>.

Dove Fellowship—Meeting date changed to Wednesday 23rd September (*provided lockdown levels are changed and gatherings of up to 50 are allowed). Meeting will be at St Thomas More Catholic Church at 7.30pm and the speaker is Bev McDonald on the topic *I Belong to Christ*.

Billings Ovulation Method Natural Fertility Training Seminar Auckland Friday 2nd-Saturday 3rd October 2020. The Billings Ovulation Method is a means of natural fertility regulation used by couples to prevent or achieve pregnancy and protect reproductive health. It is highly effective if used correctly. This seminar will be beneficial to Health professional, and those wishing to become accredited teachers of the Method. It will also be beneficial to those wishing to use the method and those involved in pre-marriage counselling. For further information: Phone 0800 693 378 or email info@billingslife.org.nz

Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum:

- The End of Life Choice Act provides access to an assisted death for those with less than 6 months to live. Yet any prognosis, especially as long as 6 months, is a guess. Overseas research shows that the choice of euthanasia is not driven by pain but by a range of personal reasons, including the fear of being a burden to their families or society.
- The End of Life Choice Act has no mandatory stand-down or cooling off period (as in other countries) - under the End of Life Choice Act, a person could be dead less than 4 days after diagnosis, and be under no obligation to inform their families or carers of their decision. The process does not even require the presence of an independent witness.

The EOLC Act is badly drafted and seriously flawed.

Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not 'compassion' to vote for a dangerous law.

See www.riskylaw.nz or www.votesafe.nz or www.carealliance.org.nz or www.nathaniel.org.nz

Authorised by John Kleinsman, 15 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington

"Season of Creation" - 1 September to 4 October

It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together.

During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. As Pope Francis reminds us:

Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. Laudato Si' #12

Pope Francis' Prayer for the 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.

Breaking Open the Gospel

The provision of a daily reflection on the Gospel continues.

Visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/ and YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCb7o1XYfQet-mOW1mJSzfow?view_as=subscriber.

Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics—is a free online Zoom lecture by Sr Prof Julia Upton Provost Emerita and retired Distinguished Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at St. John's University NY. Monday October 12 10-11.30am (AEDT). Register by 7 October at www.acu.edu.au/LectureUpton. Contact for more information centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au.

Liturgy Conference 2020 Postponed—Worshipping under Southern Skies: Weaving Together Liturgy and Life **POSTPONED UNTIL 7th - 9th OCTOBER 2021.** For those who have paid their registration they will get a full refund. The organisers will get in touch with you regarding the process.

DIGITAL SERIES - From Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd of October there will be a series of DIGITAL PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE presenters. If you have registered for the Conference or subscribed to the Conference newsletter, the link to this portal will be emailed to you. Please subscribe to the Liturgy Conference newsletter via the website <https://wuss.org.nz/> if you want to receive the link.

St Vincent de Paul continues to need our help

Our friends at St Vincent de Paul still need donations to continue their work in the Auckland community.

You can donate by visiting their Give A Little Page at <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/vinniesauckland>.