



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL
NEWSLETTER
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
20 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastor's Note

The gospel this Sunday brings to mind the commonly used phrase, "It's just not fair". Just imagine an employer pays all his workers the same salary whether they began work at six or nine, or twelve or three or five. And he justifies his salary system with a questionable principle:

"Am I not allowed to choose with what belongs to me?" (Matt: 20:15)

This parable takes us to those events and places in our lives when we just want to cry out: "It's just not fair!" The parable takes us back to our childhood when our brothers and sisters seemed to get a bigger piece of the cake, or a nicer bike, or a better deal than we did. The parable can remind us of those times that we were left on the side, or we weren't chosen. There are many occasions in our lives when we feel cheated and we want to scream: "It's just not fair!" Jesus first told this parable because people, especially good people, especially religious people were complaining to him that: "It's just not fair!" The faithful were often scandalized that Jesus was so open and that he was so accepting of the rag tags of his day. People like the tax-collectors, the prostitutes, and the new comers to God's reign.

The ever-so-good people thought that somehow religion was a matter of reward. Jesus' response to this kind of attitude was a very definite NO! For Jesus religion was not a matter of reward. Religion was about rejoicing in the fact that ALL are invited to the kingdom, where the first as well as the last, the faithful as well as the sinners, the old-timers as well as the new-comers will all be welcome. Jesus told this parable to the people of his day, who just like us, often think and feel that our faith, that our religion can be measured by our ways. We're being reminded that faith can only be measured by God's ways, because God is more generous and more loving and forgiving than our tiny little minds could ever imagine.

Well what about us living twenty centuries after this parable was first spun? What significance can the Parable of the Good Employer have on our lives? In our popular kiwi-culture aren't there a great deal of attitudes that are widespread? Attitudes like this, "You get what you deserve", or "nothing comes free", or "if you want money then work for it", or "if you want mercy, you have to deserve it". Today's parable is challenging us to look at justice through God's eyes. The justice of which God speaks is not textbook justice. The justice of God says:

Give to each man, woman and child what is due to each. Give to each what they have a right to demand, because he or she is a human being.

Open your hearts to this parable, let the spirit loose and you might just be lost in wonder at how good and just God really is.

Blessings ~ Msgr Paul Farmer

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Isaiah 55:6-9** As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's ways above our ways.

~ **Psalm 144** The Lord is near to all who call him.

~ **Philippians 1:20-24,27** Writing from prison, Paul is thinking of his death and longing for complete union with Christ.

~ **Gospel Matthew 20:1-16** This is a story about the generosity of God, which soars above human standards.

Next Week's readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 24; Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 2:28-32

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:

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

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

Murray Nash, Eduardo Sagge, Msgr Brian Arahill, Peta Knibb, Angus Gomez, John Fitzmauce, Assid Corban, Pauline D'souza, Cyril Breslin, Maureen Godon, Jojo Deguit, Pat Glamazina, Trinidad Antolin, Joan Tibbles, Kevin Gould, Russell Nelson, Johnny Austin, Johannes Wijoko, Michael Hontiveros, Barbara Richardson, Joe Coleman, Florence Gomez, Consuelo Katigbak, Felizardo Gacad, Mary Fernandez, Sr Maria McDonald OP, Ann Foss, Eric Kolhase, James Hurley, Jet Carib, Rosemary Griffen, Margaret McLean, Kath Clarke, Lorie Ayao-Shields, Nancy Kelly, Theresa Kemp, John Barret, Patricia Maher, Rose Blacklock, Patricia Borg, Alma Sands, Joseph Ang, Gwen McCarthy, Rodolfo De Asis, Maureen McQuoid, Alice Murphy, Des Rosser, Kathleen Reardon, Fr Ernie Milne IC, Jimmy Nicoll, Reenie Fernandez, Victoria Cano, Bonifacio Sanchez, Sharon Lim . . . *Eternal rest grant to them.*

LEVEL 2 AT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Under the current alert Level 2.5, there are NO PUBLIC MASSES however the Church will be open daily for private prayers and devotions. We await to hear the update this Monday 21 September when hopefully the numbers allowed for gatherings will be increased. Should a larger number be allowed, we will most likely commence public Masses here in Parnell by Thursday 24 September. Please visit our website www.parnellcatholic.org.nz or connect with us on 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 from time to time.

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 if possible.

Parnell Parish Office Hours - Under Alert Level 2

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.

This week Mass comes from St Patrick's Cathedral and is celebrated by Bishop Michael. It will also be available to download from 6pm Saturday on the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>.

The NZ Catholic Bishops' 2020 Election Statement-Whakapuaki Pōti - is available at www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Catholic-Bishops-Election-Statement-2020.pdf

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.

Marriage Encounter Weekend – CANCELLED

Due largely to the Covid restrictions they have regretfully cancelled the Marriage Encounter Weekend scheduled for the 2-4 October. In these uncertain times there are no Scheduled Weekends in Auckland this year.

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 and those involved in pre-marriage education.

For further information: Phone 0800 693 378 or email info@billingslife.org.nz

NZ Catholic - the latest free digital edition is now available for everyone at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/2a61ed4c-b19f-4f67-9d49-728df7acf784>

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

Live-streamed Forum on Euthanasia with Dr John Kleinsman

Learn more about what you are voting on as Dr John Kleinsman, Chair of the Care Alliance, unpacks the End of Life Choice Act.

Live-streamed presentation: Tuesday 22 September at 7 pm
Care Alliance Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/carealliancenz/>. *Authorised by Sinead Donnelly, Care Alliance, 15 Guildford Terrace, 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. 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—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.

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>.

The Nathaniel Report-published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics. Articles include scrutiny of the euthanasia and cannabis referendums being held at the same time as the October 17 general election. The issue is available at www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Nathaniel-Report-61-FINAL.pdf