



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL
NEWSLETTER
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
6 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastor's Note

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus talks about fraternal correction and how he promises to be with us when we pray. This passage reminded me of a story where a craftsman who was carving out a statue from a block of marble, each time he struck with his hammer and chisel he would take a piece off to reveal the masterpiece that was in his mind. The loss of extra marble did not take anything away from the statue instead it made it more beautiful. After the process of carving the statue was sanded and then polished until it was completed. Lots of unnecessary marble was removed to reveal a beautiful statue, in a similar way God desires to remove certain things from our lives so that we can grow closer to him.

God's hand in our life is certainly similar to that of the artist who carved a beautiful statue from marble, God continues to purify us, correcting us so that we become a perfect child of God. Just like the artist God slowly takes away things that are not part of his plan for our life. Unlike the block of marble, we are alive, and we sometimes feel the effects of this artistic work that God does in our lives. However, it is always for our betterment and ultimately to bring us to the perfection that God has for us as we live our lives out in Christ. For God desires to shape you into someone who is more and the more authentic version of you.

The Gospel talks about how God chooses to use members of the community to help one another in this process of spiritual growth. As Christians we ultimately want the best for our brothers and sisters in Christ. A part of this duty of care is that we are called to pray for each other, interceding for those whom we know and love. In praying for others God works in our lives at the same time bringing us and the people that we pray for closer to himself. In fact there is a great promise attached to those who pray together, Jesus tells us in the Gospel that your prayers will be answered and that when two or more are gathered in Jesus' name he will be there with them.

The Artist of our life has promised that he would be with us when two or more gather in his name. This is a reminder to us of the importance of prayer, for God desires to be with us, and how much God desires that we continue to grow in the spiritual life. God truly desires us to become our true selves in him, God has also given us a way of actively cooperating in this work of redemption. Today we are reminded of God's guiding hand and the power of prayer. The life that God has for us is a journey into greater communion with the one who made us and loves us dearly. God is always there for us and truly desires us to come to him in prayer, to lay out our lives before him so that he may continue to transform us into who he has made us to be.

*Blessings ~ Fr Tony King-Archer
Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph*

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Ezekiel 33:7-9** The appointed leaders bear the responsibility to point out to wrong-doers the error of their ways and to try to get them to reform.

~ **Psalm 94** O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

~ **Romans 13:8-10** If we truly loved our neighbours we would not harm them in any way.

~ **Gospel Matthew 18:15-20** We hear about the duty a Christian has to correct an erring brother or sister.

Next Week's readings: Ecclesus 27:30-28:7; Psalm 102; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

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, Buntly 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-Luypers, 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 . . .

Frank Mufty, Peggy Bell-Booth, Julie Nicholls, Palaamo Kalati, Michelle Pereira, Basil Yap, Anne O'Sullivan, Diana Ross, Elizabeth Hales, James Gallagher, Sean O'Keeffe, Kirk Badiola, Maurice Churton, Emile Kielar, John Lane, Bill Doyle, Francesca Goodwin, Miriam Adique, George Celedonio, Kath Allen, Mary Herbert, Patrick Smith, Terence Oliver, Soagia Faga, John La'Croix, Ryan Carduzo, Don Crawford, Aisla Duffy, JoAnn Swartz, Luis Tura, Aisling Cooke, Juanita Banzon, Esther Gill, Jean Mullan, Teresita del Valle, Michael del Valle, Moira Bryant, Janette Currie, Bryan Lynch, Theresa Carroll, Elizabeth Ihaka rsm, Jack Smith, Geoff Bruce, Toi Rapiara, Kitty McKewen, John Chambers, Ongo Kaihea, Fr Joe Foley, Joe Paraiso, Br Francis Erni OFM, Barry Russell, Jovita Antao, Boris Srhoj, Maria Magdalena, Eric Werder, William Thode, James Marinovich, Douglas Paterson, John Jude, Kevin McBride, Ric de la Cruz, Mark Gleeson

. . . Eternal rest grant to them.

LEVEL 2 AT JOHN THE BAPTIST

With Auckland remaining at Level 2.5 with current restrictions of gatherings to 10, the Church will be open only for private prayers and devotions. No Public Masses will be held until further notice. QR Codes are posted on the Church doors and we strongly encourage everyone to download the Covid-19 Tracer App on your mobile devices before your visit. A visitors logbook will also be in place as well as Hand Sanitisers for all to use. The use of masks or any facial covering is encouraged for the health and safety of everyone. Church opening times are from 10am to 4pm 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.

This week's Mass comes from Kaitia and is celebrated by Msgr Bernard Kiely and Fr Larry Rustia. 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 Opportunities

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. For full details visit <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/50415919>.

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.

Online Courses

Mary, the Mother of God with Br Kieran Fenn
The online series continues. Topic for Monday, 7 September, 7-8.30pm: Mary in the Gospel of Luke. \$25 per-session.

Homecoming – A Journey of Transformation the Prodigal Son - An online retreat with Eamon Butler.
Saturday, 19 September, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60.
Email info@studyjoy.nz to register for either course.

Or visit <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/>

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

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-mOW1mJSzfw?view_as=subscriber. The Gospel will be proclaimed and then a member of the Auckland Diocesan Team will unpack its meaning for us.

Social Justice Week - 6 to 12 September

Each year the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand set aside a week in September for Social Justice Week, inviting us to reflect and take action on a current social justice issue.

The theme of our Social Justice Week this year is **Mā te whiriwhiri tahi ka puāwai ngā pūmanawa o te tangata—Together weaving the realisation of potential**. Visit <https://caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week> to learn about nine core principles of Catholic social teaching and how different communities are practicing them.

Support to visitors to NZ on temporary visas— NZ Red Cross is working with the DIA to provide support to visitors to NZ on temporary visas, (i.e. not citizens or Permanent Resident visa-holders) who are experiencing financial hardship due to being stranded in NZ due to COVID 19.

Visit <https://foreignnationals.services.govt.nz> or phone 0800 RED CROSS (733 276) for further information.

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 the ACU Centre for Liturgy centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au.

Season of Creation— 1 September to 4 October

We continue the "Season of Creation", an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

It runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

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.

Further information and resources can be found at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/justice-peace/environment-sustainability-committee/>

Liturgy Conference 2020—An invitation is extended to every parishioner in the Auckland Diocese to attend the Liturgy Conference 1-3 October at Baradene College.

Worshipping under Southern Skies -Te Huinga Whakamoemi Kei Raro i Te Taki-o-Autahi - Weaving together Liturgy and Life - E rarangatia ana ngā Ritenga me te Ira Tangata. It will be a great opportunity to grow in faith. Please visit the website wuss.org.nz for further information.

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>.