



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL
NEWSLETTER
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
22 AUGUST 2021

Pastor's Note

“This is intolerable language.” These were the words of not the crowd, but the followers of Jesus. Jesus showed them what they must do to inherit eternal life, but because the requirement was either beyond their understanding or outside of their comfort zone, they refused to accept it, and many of them stopped following Jesus from that time on.

In our own journeys as disciples of Jesus, there are times that we too need to make the decision as to whether to continue to follow Him. It may not be as serious as rejecting the message of the Good News like the ones in front of Jesus in the Gospel reading, but still, we need to make decisions. Should I spend time with my family or browse the net? Should I go to the Sunday mass or have a sleep in? Should I listen patiently to the concerns of a friend or pretend I'm busy? Time after time we have in front of us opportunities to open our hearts to the will of our Father and learn from the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ, but ultimately it is up to us to decide what to choose. This in a special way reveals the Father's infinite love for us: allowing us to choose. A Father who does not treat us like children, but mature adults who can and do make good and bad decisions. Yet he is always there to help and guide us back to the right path even if we stray.

The question Jesus asked the twelve: “What about you, do you want to go away too?” describes the love our Lord has for us, wanting us to continue to follow Him, since He is the way, the truth and the life, but at the same time giving us the freedom to make our own choices. We pray that we too will see in Christ the beauty of God's love and the revelation of the divine reality. May we join ourselves to the response of Simon Peter: “Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe”.

*Blessings ~ Fr Francis Poon
St John the Baptist, Parnell*

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18** Joshua confronts the people with a vital decision—to serve the one true God or to serve false gods.

~ **Psalm 33** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

~ **Ephesian 5:21-32** St Paul uses the image of a marriage relationship to express the bond that exists between Christ and the Church.

~ **John 6:53, 60-69** The disciples of Jesus are faced with a vital decision—to stay with Jesus or to leave him.

Next week's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; Psalm 14; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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:

Malu Beltran, Frank Guzzo, Antony Tibudan, Pia Tibudan, Avelino Tibudan, Natalie Keane, Msgr David Tonks, Aaron Ablan, Jenny Fewtrell, Lucas Arnet, Annabel Kalin, Dennis Matthew, Marlee Owens, Samira & Raj, John Sullivan, James L. Cu, Sepi Fe'ao, Teresa Gudex, Ben Hunt, Ana Laura Robles, Ana Denisse Manjarrez, Brian Murphy, Sue Bedford, Christopher Hughes, Alberto Olarte, Joe Raymond, Ambi Joseph, Ivy Hi, Emy Calma, Chris Dwyer, Royston Beckham, Margaret Everett, Alice Swann, John & Rosa Williams, Ann Sayegh, Marie Mole, Linda Mole, BC, Fr Andrei Centeno, Mary Bratton, Kirei Tua, Elizabeth Beckham, Alana North, Maurice Robinson, AS, Michael Wong, Maree C, Kanawhat Cheevachit, Dolly P, Yaroslav Khmel, Anne Telles, Linus Broughton, Sue Wynne Davis, Rosily Chacko, Thilsi Vern, Patricia Wright, Luigi & Dawn Rocca, Bonifacio Sanches, Joy Agon, Neira, Gavin Alexander, Chonusi William, Eric & Rachel Smith, Maria Martho, Rosa Santos, Jon Manson, Francisco Billinilanz, Benny Clynes, Judy Hanna, Lynn Barnett Welsh, Teana Jones, Christopher Browne, Barry Spooner, Nicholas James, Pamela Vincent, Shane McGruddy, Michelle Bergin, Rosita Galarg, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Serena Coughy, Martin Harriman, Ann Gordon, Adelaida Sison, Frank Van Nieukerk, John Kainuku, Noeline Levick, Jin Shu Qin, Jill Hopgood-Luyfers, Virgilia Velasquez, Wilfred Mansoor, Baden McPherson, Shannon Kavanagh, Gloria Gillespie.

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

Muriel Prendergast, Lodewijk Widarma, Elizabeth Inawati, Lee Francisca, Michelle Pereira, Noreen Fletcher, Salvador & Ana Maria Robles, Peter Williams, Dr Warren Moran, Basil Aholelei, Phyllis Murphy, Greg Boyed, George Dyer, V. Handoyo, Laurie Neeson, Peter Nola, Frank Soldner, Anthony Raman, Maurice Boland, Eileen Brosnan, Mikie King, Michael Rehder, Cecy da Costa, Betty Johnstone, Jo Scully, Hazel Harris, Eugina Reyes, Robin Maber, Basil Yap, Pat Tonks, Nolean Byers, Jim Robbie, Anthony Moore, Andrew Martin, Jo Scully, Brendan Dunican, Lizza Tagle, Romeo Ballona, Josephine Bish, Bob Skelton, Bill Roche, Benjamin Contreras Snr, Moira Bryant, Lynette Collins, Maura Henley, Pacing Bergante Talamor, Eleanor Tierney, Kazimier Milek, Sr Frances Scully OP, Eric Szczerba, George Wood, Marie Murphy . . . *Eternal rest grant to them.*

COVID19 UPDATE

From 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 August, the whole of New Zealand has gone back into alert level 4 restrictions with the detection of the Covid19 Delta Variant in the Community. With this, the church will be CLOSED with ALL MASSES and CONFESSIONS SUSPENDED until further notice.

The Parish Office will also be closed however emails will continue to be monitored remotely from 10am to 5pm from

Monday to Friday. office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

For any urgent matters or concerns during this period, you may contact Fr Francis directly on 021 130 7932.

Please visit our website

www.parnellcatholic.org.nz or connect with us on our

Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistParnell)

StJohnTheBaptistParnell for the latest updates.

Sunday Mass on TV

Sunday Mass continues to be broadcast at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201. Or you can watch online from

Sunday morning at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=auckland+catholic+channel

This week the Mass comes from Our Lady of Assumption Church in Onehunga and is celebrated by Msgr Bernard Kiely. Please note that this was recorded before we went to Level 4.



NZ Catholic - the latest free digital edition is now available for everyone at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/ac3b7938-55ec-43ec-a0b9-3c02cb565718>

Resources in times of Lockdown

The diocese has a number of resources available on its website to support people during this time <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/home-2020-new-design/the-church-and-covid-level-4/>

Cathedral Spotify Page—St Patrick Cathedral's Acting Director of Music Nicholas Forbes creates a weekly Spotify Music list for Sunday. You can listen for free at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0XnecwqwoUPZzwhgJhnqlc?si=019701ba26c74958>

Titipounamu Study & Joy—is celebrating 1 year and gives thanks with free August events:

Online Session: The Eucharist— a Gospel event & Sacrament.

With Professor Thomas O'Loughlin and Kieran Fenn fms. Monday, 23 August, 8-9pm. Free. ZOOM.

For more information & registration email info@studyjoy.nz
Muffin Talk Radio Programme recordings and video clips on religion, interfaith and community

- available at <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/> and new on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TitipounamuStudyandJoy>

Liturgy Conference - Worshipping Under Southern Skies: weaving together liturgy and life.

Open to all who celebrate Mass. Come – be present, be filled, be renewed! 7th – 9th October at Baradene College of the Sacred Heart, Remuera Auckland.
Visit wuss.org.nz for more information.

REJOICE AUCKLAND CATHOLIC FESTIVAL

Saturday 16 October 2021

Rejoice Auckland Catholic Festival is a time for people of all ages to rejoice and celebrate our Catholic faith. Registrations are now open for individuals, families, groups, and volunteers at: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/festival/>.

Rejoice in TRUTH Youth & Young Adult Festival

On Saturday evening 16 October there will be a Festival for teens and young adults exploring Rejoice in TRUTH. In a world of uncertainties, we are seeking now more than ever; what is real, what is good, what is true. This night is about diving deeper, it is about letting go and letting Christ in. Join us in this space where we are going to explore the question of not what, but who is the truth?

The information evening providing detail about the Rejoice Festival set for next Monday has been postponed while we await further details of how widespread the current Covid outbreak is. We will provide an update in this newsletter next week. Please note that the Festival will only go ahead if we are back at Covid Level 1.

Role vacancy: Deputy Executive Officer, NZ Catholic Bishops Conference

The Deputy Executive Officer provides support for the work of the Catholic Bishops and their agencies at national level in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand. This role is based at the Catholic Centre, Hill St, Wellington.

Visit www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nzcbc-deputyeo/ for further information.

Vacancy Counsellor – Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services has a vacancy for a full-time Counsellor to join its team based in Otara, covering the wider Auckland/South Auckland Communities.

To view the full job description, please visit the Diocesan website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

100 Years of The Legion of Mary

Founded in Ireland on 7th September 1921

The Legion of Mary celebrates its 100 years of giving glory to God through our Blessed Mother. As the largest organization of lay people with well over three million active members in almost every country of the world, it has been in

New Zealand since 1933. Join the celebration of a Novena Day of Prayer and Opening Mass at St Michael's parish, 6 Beatrice Road, Remuera. Thursday 2 September at 7.15 pm.

The Centenary full day celebrations are at St Michael's on Saturday 11th September from 8.30 am– 4.30 pm, with Mass at 11 am. There will be a Talk Series throughout the day.

Please note that this event will only take place if we are in Level 1.

St Vincent de Paul Needs Help

Our friends at St Vincent de Paul need donations to continue their work in the wider Auckland community. You can donate by visiting their Give A Little Page

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/vinniesauckland>.

If you require assistance with a food parcel you can phone them on 0800 680 090.

