



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL

NEWSLETTER

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10 OCTOBER 2021

Pastor's Note

The rich young man who comes to Jesus to ask for guidance is one of the best known figures in the New Testament. And his encounter with Our Lord produced one of the more startling images in the Scriptures – a camel trying to pass through the eye of a needle. Familiar and striking thought the tale may be, it is all too easy in focusing on the eye of the needle to miss the point!

Perhaps the most important words to heed in the story are the response of the disciples, “who, then, can be saved?” It is all too easy to say the message of the encounter is that wealth is bad, or rich people are bad, or Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates are really in trouble. But the disciples certainly weren't rich, and yet (for once) they got the point – the warning applied to them, just as much as the rich young man.

People without money, after all, can spend just as much time obsessing over it as the rich. “If only I had money, everything would be easy.” “If only I won Lotto, all my troubles would be over.” This is the real danger of wealth. Many of the things we might like to do with money may well be good. But the ability to do them can give us the very dangerous misconception that we are in control. Riches can insulate us from some things, so that we can have the illusion that we are in control of our lives. Yet, as perhaps the pandemic has shown some of us more clearly, life is very precarious. Ultimately everything rests in the hands of God.

Wealth can be one of the greatest distractions. There are many others, of course. Food, sex, entertainment, travel, and new experiences of every kind. Of course, money can buy many of them, that's why it is dangerous. And most of them are basically good. But they are not God. We may not have the wealth to buy all of them, but all of us have one or more of them that occupy a greater part in our lives than they should. If Our Lord were to come to us and say “Give that up, and you'll have treasure in heaven. And come follow me,” we would struggle. We might well want to walk away in sadness.

But, of course, it isn't “if”. Jesus does come to us and say exactly that. I don't know about you, but I find it very hard to follow that call. Thankfully there is the great message of joy from Our Lord in response to the disciples' distress. It may be humanly impossible, but nothing is impossible for God. We are to rely on God, not on wealth, or those other things that we believe will make us happy, but that is even so of our turning from the various false gods we have made for ourselves, and especially in our finding forgiveness for our reliance on false gods in the past. We rely on the power of God, and what we cannot do, he will do by his power. And **we will** have treasure in heaven.

Blessings ~ Fr Chris Denham

Liturgy of the Word

~ **Wisdom 7:7-11** This is a passage in praise of wisdom. It is presented as a speech of Solomon.

~ **Psalm 89** Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

~ **Hebrews 4:12-13** God's word is effective and is a source of true wisdom for us.

~ **Mark 10:17-30** The case of a good young man who refuses to follow Christ because he is unwilling to part with his wealth.

Next Week's readings: Isaiah 53:10-11; Psalm 32; Hebrews 4:14-16; Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

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:

Maura Just, Allisa Elten, Malu Beltran, Frank Guzzo, Avelino Tibudan, Natalie Keane, Aaron Ablan, Jenny Fewtrell, Teresa Gudex, Lucas Arnet, Annabel Kalin, Dennis Matthew, Marlee Owens, Samira & Raj, John Sullivan, James L. Cu, Sepi Fe'ao, 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, Yaroslav Khmel, Maree C, Kanawhat Cheevachit, Anne Telles, Linus Broughton, Sue Wynne Davis, Rosily Chacko, Thilsy Vern, Joy Agon, Patricia Wright, Luigi & Dawn Rocca, Bonifacio Sanches, Neira, Gavin Alexander, Chonusi William, Rosa Santos, Teana Jones, Judy Hanna, Maria Martho, Eric & Rachel Smith, Jon Manson, Francisco Billinilanz, Benny Clynes, Lynn Barnett Welsh, 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-Luyypers, 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 . . .

Allan & Shane Brewster, John Griffin, Chrissy Jacobs, Gregory Cambie, Andrew Afeaki, Stephen Nobilo, Mary Kemp, Wanda Ellis, Alma Tadman rsm, Kevin Gould, Peter McLeavey, Dolly Nursanti Tjandra, Hugh Laracy, Maria Leite, Rosario Jose, Basil Mayer, Mark Pye, Msgr Vincent Hunt, Gloria Court, Kumi Masui, Senia Auva'a, Florence Gomez, Dennis Mannex, Anna Noh, Wilhelmina Arnet-Schumacher, Colette McCarron, Erin Griffin, Alejandro Chan, Paul Lao, Iwona Konarkowska, Pedro Bautista, Dorothy Leuschke, Patricia Faire, Sarah Caulfield, Marie Green, Gregory Mascarenhas, Pat Hendry, Phyllis Revel, Eric Athaide, James Hurley, Thean Chuan Ong, Jimmy Kelly, Patricia Borg, Mary Hyland, Cameron Murphy, Louisa Potter, Guillermo Rabno, Kaz Wisniewski, Colleen Green, Margaret Stewart, Park Dong Hyun, Paul Shanahan. . . *Eternal rest grant to them.*

COVID19 UPDATE

Auckland remains in Alert Level 3. There are still no public masses and the church can only open for weddings and funerals with both services limited to 10 people including the presiding priest. The parish office remains closed and emails continue to be monitored daily from 10am to 5pm. For any urgent concerns, contact Fr Francis on 021 130 7932. Visit our website www.parnellcatholic.org.nz or connect with us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistParnell> for the latest updates.

Sunday Mass on TV—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/c/AucklandCatholic/playlists>

Resources in times of Lockdown

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

Daily Reflections from Bishops Pat and Michael

Reflections from our Bishops on Facebook. Bishop Pat <https://www.facebook.com/bishoppatrick> and Bishop Michael <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=bishop%20michael%20gielen>

On-line Rosary - 8.30 am daily with the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph. Email anita@stpatricks.org.nz to join.

Lectio Divina reflecting on the daily Gospel readings

Fr James Walsh is leading an introduction to this method of prayer, reflecting on the daily Gospel readings. All are welcome. Please email anita@stpatricks.org.nz to join.

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/1AKiMo8x8U9JE7HqibpKc?si=dcec29004c0741ff>

~ ~ ~

Jubilee Bursary Open for Semester 1, 2022

Contribution towards fees for Theology and RE courses at degree and post grad level. Applications close Thursday, 11 November 2021. Please email Michelle Jarvis michellej@cda.org.nz to apply.

Rosary in October - October is traditionally a four-week time of focus on the beauty and power of the Rosary as a journey of faith, with Mary, through the central events of the life of Christ. Sign up to receive daily October reflections on the mysteries of the Rosary at www.foodforfaith.org.nz/rosary

NZ Catholic - the latest free digital edition is now available for everyone at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/a816212b-9754-4550-9c1b-7f3db9fa1269>



ONLINE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Breaking Open the Gospel of the Day - Members of the Diocesan Community proclaim the Gospel of the Day and reflect on its meaning in our lives and this situation on the Diocesan YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/AucklandCatholic/playlists>

Weekend Worship—another night of spirit-filled praise and worship, led by some of our very talented musicians from Takapuna parish. This event is family friendly, and people of all ages are welcome. Saturday 9 October, 8 pm Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM>

Synod on Synodality—will be officially opened by Pope Francis at the Vatican with the celebration of the Eucharist at St Peter's Basilica (Sunday 10 October), preceded by a moment of reflection in the Synod's New Hall (Saturday 9 October). You can join the Church in this time of prayer through the Vatican News website <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>.

You can join Bishop Pat in prayerfully opening the local diocesan phase of this Synod journey on Sunday 17 October 7 pm through his Facebook page. More details next week.

Support Life Sunday 10 October

Supporting and Honouring Faith Carers

Join us on Sunday evening, October 10 at 5 pm as we gather in prayer for Support Life Sunday. Zoom - Meeting ID: 814 4318 8862 Passcode:172106 or Live on YouTube [\(1\) Auckland Catholic - YouTube](#)

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions (Evening):

Prayers in the Gospel of Luke – The Gospel of the New Church Year with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 11 October, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. \$25/session. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/09/02/the-gospel-of-luke/> For more information and registration: 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/>

End of Life Prayer Day 7 November

On the day that the End of Life Choice Act, legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide in New Zealand, comes into force we are called to offer prayerful witness and solidarity with the vulnerable. Especially as it coincides with the traditional Christian day of worship - when we gather together to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and the saving power of His life over death.

~ ~ ~

Catholic Caring Foundation

Needs your help to support struggling families. Our agencies are overwhelmed with requests for support. Want to help? Make a donation today. Visit <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/ways-to-give/>

St Vincent de Paul Needs Help

Our friends at St Vincent de Paul need donations to continue their work in the wider Auckland You can donate by visiting their Give A Little Page <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/vinniesauckland>. Or with online banking—Bank Account Details Name: Soc of St Vincent De Paul Ak Account Number: 12-3017-0500224-00; Reference: Covid-19 For a tax receipt & enquiries email auckland@stvinnies.co.nz. If you require assistance with a food parcel you can phone them on 0800 680 090.