

HOLY FAMILY PARISH MASSES and other Liturgical Celebrations:

Daily morning Masses: **9.00am Monday to Saturday**

Saturday Vigil Mass: **6.00pm**

Sunday Masses: **8.30am - St. John of the Cross**
9.30am - Holy Family

Community Masses:

Samoan Community – **1st and 3rd Sundays at 11.00am**

Cook Islands – **2nd Sunday at 11.00am**

Myanmar Community – **4th Sunday at 11.00am**

Tokelau – **4th Sunday, 11am at St. John of the Cross**

Multicultural Mass – **Every 5th Sunday at 9.30am**

Sunday Adoration – **Every Sunday at 5.00pm**

Reconciliation – **At any time before and after Mass**

Baptism – **By appointment**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

169 Mungavin Avenue, Porirua.

PO Box 53001, Porirua 5024

Ph: 04 237-8674 E: office@holyfamilyparish.nz



TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 22nd September 2024

Dear Parishioners: **Kia orana, Greetings, Talofa lava, Malo ni, Mingalaba, Mauri, Ola, Namaste, Malo Lelei & Nibula.**

Today's readings invite us to become great in the sight of God by doing God's will as Jesus did, surrendering our lives to Him in the service of others. The passage from Wisdom sounds like a messianic prophecy similar to the "Suffering Servant" prophecy in Isaiah referring to Christ's passion. It urges us to choose the path of righteousness in spite of painful consequences. In today's Psalm 54, the psalmist prays for help against the insolent people who rise against the upright. The second reading is in tune with the dispute in today's Gospel, in which the apostles are competing among themselves to discover who will be the greatest in the coming Messianic Kingdom. In the second reading, James warns the church, and us, that selfish ambitions destroy peace and cause conflicts and war. So, James advises us to choose the path of righteousness and humble service which leads to lasting peace.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a glimpse of what walking that path of righteousness, mentioned in the first and second readings, looks like in action — welcoming and serving the vulnerable in our midst, especially defenseless children, the despairing poor, the mentally ill and the marginalized. Jesus also teaches his apostles that child-like humility and selfless service make one great in the eyes of God.

1. We must become great through humble, self-giving service. Greatness, in Jesus' view, is found in our willingness to accept, welcome, and serve those who are considered unacceptable by reason of class, colour, religion, language, wealth, or culture. We must welcome people the way a child welcomes them before he is taught discrimination. If we are to be truly great, we must be ready to accept four challenges: (1) to put ourselves last, (2) to be the servant of all, (3) to receive the most insignificant human beings with love, and (4) to expect nothing in return. During the Holy Mass let us pray for the true spirit of service and for an attitude of love for those around us. May the Holy Spirit help us to become truly great through humble, selfless service.

2) We need to practice humility in thoughts, words, and actions: "Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart," Jesus invites us. St. Augustine asks, "What is the essential thing in the religion and discipline of Jesus Christ?" then responds, "I shall reply: first humility, second humility, and third humility." We should not seek recognition and recompense for the services we do for Christ and the Church as parents, teachers, pastors, etc. Trusting Faith, both causes and results from, true humility, for these two synergize, deepening each other, and both are essential for all corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Since children reflect the innocence, purity, simplicity, and tenderness of our Lord, and since they are given the protection of a guardian angel, we are to love them, train them, and take care not to give scandal to them. We need to try to treat everyone with love and respect because, "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life" (St. Basil), CCC # 336

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5pm.
2. **Sacramental Programme**
Rehearsal for First Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd September from 3.00 – 4.00pm.
3. **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**
Sunday 29th September – Mass starts at 10.00am.

NOTICE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

COME AND SEE

Priesthood Vocations Morning @ St Mary's Parish Otaki

Saturday 28th September, 10AM - 2.00PM.
Are you thinking about priesthood?

Join other like-minded young men for a morning of reflection, discussion and fellowship. Starts with Mass at 10am at St Mary's Church, [4 Convent Road, Otaki](#) -Text 021 164 5800 to let us know you're coming!

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

22 Sept. 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Wisdom 2:12, 17 - 20
- Responsorial Psalm: 54
- 2nd R: James 3: 16 – 4: 3
- Gospel: Mark 9: 30 – 37

29 Sept. 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Numbers 11: 25 - 29
- Responsorial Psalm: 19
- 2nd R: James 5: 1 – 6
- Gospel: Mark 9: 38 – 43, 45, 47-48

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 15th September 2024

Parish - \$2,443.50

Building Fund - \$428.90

Generosity consists not the sum given, but the manner in which it is bestowed.

May God bless you always.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Holy Family is committed to the person of Jesus in his teaching. Therefore, we are called to live justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8) so that we might become effective witnesses of the Gospel.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We will dedicate ourselves to live and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by words and actions. In following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each other, the example of their family life, we will come to true holiness. We will strive to imitate the Holy Family by:

- Being a loving, welcoming and forgiving community, fully alive in the spirit of Holy Family.
- Teaching our children, the Gospel way of life and encouraging them always to share fully in the life of our Parish.
- Celebrating the Eucharist as a joyful remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for us.
- Being a community of prayer that reaches out and open to other faith communities.
- Being an "Oasis" of hope, love and mercy to God's children.
- Being witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus, strengthened by our cultural diversity.

Extending our big THANK YOU to Sr. Althea Marie for your service to our Parish. You've been a great help for our children, our elderlies and our community – we are so grateful. We wish you well in your calling. May our heavenly Father continue to bless and keep you always in the next chapter of your ministry.

THE HOLY SPIRIT – by Sr Anne Phibbs

We are very fortunate to belong to such a vital and alive Parish. Co-operation is possibly the key to our Parish working together so very well. Last Sunday's Confirmation was an excellent example. The amazing singing of so many different, beautiful choirs, the beauty of the floral decorations, the altar-servers who were so well-trained, the beautifully-dressed and well-prepared candidates for confirmation, the generous meal afterwards and the delight of our priests that all was going so well. The Arch bishop too, played his part as he explained clearly the ceremony and its significance. Well done, Holy Family Parish!

The Holy Spirit bringing his gifts to so many of our parishioners reminded me of a story told by Fr John Fuellenbach in a lecture in Wellington many years ago. Fr Fuellenbach was lecturing in Rome at the time and he was approached by a young girl who asked if she could listen to his lectures. This was permitted for some students but she said she wasn't a student. Something about her made him allow her to come to his lectures even though she didn't qualify. She came faithfully, sat in the same spot each time but said nothing until one day he was speaking about the Holy Spirit and how the influence of the Holy Spirit can spread through people. Then she shouted out "That's it".

The story she told him then was that she was brought up in Communist China. Her grandmother died and left her a small wooden box. When she opened the box she was disappointed to see that it contained a copy of Chairman Mao's little red book. However, when she opened it up the red cover disguised a copy of the New Testament. She had never heard the story of our salvation before and was so fascinated by it that she sat up all night reading. "What should I do?" was the thought that troubled her. In the book she found a holy card with "made in Italy" on it so she decided to go to Italy. She smuggled herself out of China by holding on to the underside of a railway truck to get across the border. When she reached Italy, she worked in a Chinese restaurant washing dishes until she had learned enough Italian to do waitressing and when she was fluent enough, she approached Fr Fuellenbach.

Fr Fuellenbach asked her what she was going to do now that she had discovered the Holy Spirit and she said she intended going back to China to spread the Good News, with the help of the Holy Spirit. When asked how she was going to China she said she was going the same way as she had come. He never heard from her again but it's to be hoped that she succeeded in her mission.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds. Spirit of right judgement and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love. Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another. May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology. Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation. Amen.