

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:

Samoa 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

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For Emergencies, please contact:

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TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6th October 2024

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

Today's Scripture readings are about the bond of love that marriage creates between a man and a woman, a bond that God intends to be permanent. These readings challenge the spouses to practice the fidelity of their ever-faithful God, honouring their holy covenant commitment before Him.

The first reading, taken from Genesis, explains God's original plan concerning marriage. It teaches us that God made man and woman for each other. Hence, in marriage they are no longer two but one, united by an unbreakable bond. The reading also describes the institution of marriage and shows that monogamy was God's intention from the very beginning. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 128) expands the marital theme of the first reading and the Gospel to include the children born of the union. Since the children enrich the lives of their parents, the Psalmist prays: *"May you see your children's children."*

The second reading, taken from the Letter to the Hebrews, reminds us that Jesus became one of us, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. As one of us, Jesus *"tasted death for everyone."* He was not only the Sacrifice, but also the High Priest. We are now Jesus' brothers and sisters, bonded with Him, and through Him bonded with God. Thus, Christ became the Savior of all people – the good, the bad, the divorced – everyone, and received all of us as brothers and sisters. Jesus' prohibition of divorce can be a source of suffering for those who face difficult married lives. Paul suggests that we have to accept pain as Jesus did, as part of the suffering we all have to endure on the way to glory.

Today's Gospel **gives** Christ's explicit teaching on marriage and divorce, the Divine origin of marriage, the sacredness of family life, and the indissolubility of marriage. These are difficult messages to preach in a society that embraces co-habitation and ignores both the escalating divorce statistics and the dangerous consequences of divorce. The Gospel teaches that family life is sacred, that husband and wife are partners with equal rights, and that the destruction of the family by divorce is producing the destruction of society.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5pm.
2. **October - Month of the Rosary** - Calendar in the foyer for families or any group who want to pray the Rosary, Monday to Friday at 6.00pm throughout the month of October.
3. **Missionaries of Charity Foundation Day - Monday 7th October.**
Mass starts at 9am followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the whole day till 5.30pm. Benediction at the Convent. All welcome to pray.

***"I have done what
was mine to do.
May Christ teach you
what is yours."***

St. Francis of Assisi



SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

6 Oct. 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Genesis 2: 18 - 24
- Responsorial Psalm: 128
- 2nd R: Hebrews 2: 9 – 11
- Gospel: Mark 10: 2 - 16

13 Oct. 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Wisdom 7: 7 - 11
- Responsorial Psalm: 90
- 2nd R: Hebrews 4: 12 – 13
- Gospel: Mark 10: 17 - 30

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 29 September 2024

Parish - \$2,669.20

Building Fund - \$591.70

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.

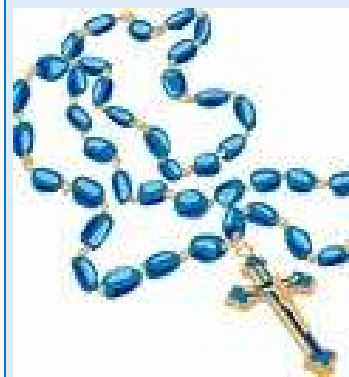
PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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.

"I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations."

Pope Francis



DOING THE BEST WE CAN

Last Sunday we had another wonderful celebration at our Holy Family Church. It was such a joyous occasion greatly enhanced by the beautiful singing, the attractive clothing of those receiving First Communion, the lovely floral decorations, the participation of Fr Pene along with our own enthusiastic priests, and the great faith of our people. May all those who received Holy Communion for the first time be greatly blessed, along with those who worked hard to prepare them so well.

Recently I received a card with a memorable quote from Helen Keller:

"When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."

Helen Keller certainly did her best. She was born healthy but at the age of 19 months an illness left her blind, deaf and unable to speak. She became an uncontrollable child and many said she should be put in an institution, but her mother constantly looked for other solutions.

When she was nearly 7 years of age, Anne Sullivan came to be her teacher. Anne also did her best and the extraordinary and remarkable story of how she taught language to Helen is told in a film entitled "The Miracle Worker". I recall reading about Anne letting water pour onto one of Helen's hands while she wrote W A T E R on the other hand and that was the break-through because the little girl suddenly realised that the word explained the thing and she then began her extraordinary education. Helen was able to go to college and was the first blind-deaf person to gain a BA. She became an author and a lecturer, sharing her experiences and working for the rights of women and on behalf of those with disabilities. She was a powerful example of how hard work and determination can allow anyone to overcome life's most terrible obstacles.

This past week the Church has placed before us several examples of saints who have done their best, including St Therese, "the Little Flower" who taught us her "Little Way" - a way of confidence and trust and of total surrender to God's Merciful Love. Another of this week's great saints is St Francis of Assisi. Born into a wealthy family Francis chose to embrace a life that called for obedience to God and solidarity with the poor. His love of the Creator and of all of creation is poured forth in his Canticle of the Sun. Pope Francis used a phrase from this, *Laudato Si* as the title for his encyclical in which he implores us to care for our common home, the Earth. *'Praise be to you, my Lord. (Laudato Si). Through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.'* In this hymn St Francis invites all his brother and sister creatures to praise the Creator. *"Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility."*

By Sr Anne Phibbs