

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

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TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25th August 2024

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

The main theme of today's readings is that Christian life is a series of daily choices for God or against God, as we choose to live out or reject the truths He has revealed through His prophets in the Old Testament and especially through His Son Jesus in the New Testament. The fundamental choice we make determines how we live our lives, deciding whom we will serve.

In the first reading, Joshua challenges the Israelites to decide whether they will serve the gods of their fathers, the gods of the Amorites in whose country they are presently dwelling, or the God of the Israelites Who has done so much for them. The Renewal of Covenant ceremony in Joshua chapter 24 reminds us that the Eucharist is a Covenant meal that calls for our decision of Faith. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34) reminds us that in choosing God for our God we are choosing Life and His Eternal faithfulness and Love as our shelter and salvation. The second reading emphasizes the unity that must exist in the Body of Christ and the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers. It also challenges the Ephesian Christians to make the right choice in life and build Christian marriages on mutual respect and love, accepting each other's rights and dignity. Jesus also uses the husband-wife relationship as an analogy to explain the close relationship between Christ and the Church. Paul reminds us that Jesus nourishes us, the members of His Church, through the Eucharist, making us His own flesh and blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Concluding his long Eucharistic discourse, Jesus, in today's Gospel, challenges his Jewish audience, and later His apostles, to make their choice: to accept Him as the true Bread from Heaven Who gives them His Body and Blood as their Heavenly Food, or to join those who have lost their Faith in Jesus and left Him, expressing their confusion and doubts about His claims. Today's passage describes the various reactions of the people to Jesus' claims. Many of the disciples leave, but the apostles freely choose to stay with Jesus. In this Eucharistic celebration, we, too, are called to make a decision, profess our Faith in God's Son and renew the Covenant ratified in his Life, death and Resurrection.

Let us make our choice for Christ and live it: We Christians have accepted the challenge of following the way of Christ and making choices for Christ, fortified by the Bread He gives and relying on the power of His Holy Spirit.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

- Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5.00 – 6.00pm
- Archdiocese's Priests Study Days:** Mass in Holy Family church will be at 8.30am on Thurs 28th and Fri 29th August.
- Sacramental Programme** - Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation - every Sunday from 3.00pm – 4.00pm at the school hall.
No session on Sunday 1 Sept.
Rehearsal dates: Confirmation and First Holy Communion (11am Sat 31st Aug in the church) & Sun 8th September.
Sacrament of Reconciliation – Saturday 14th September.
- Feast Day of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta** - Holy Mass 9am Sat 7 Sept
- Children's Ministry**
For our young children, every Sunday at 9.30am in the school hall.
- Confirmation by Archbishop Paul Martin. – Sunday 15th Sept, 9.30am**
Shared Lunch at the school hall after Mass. Please bring a plate to share.
- First Holy Communion – Sunday 29th September, Mass at 10.00am.**
- Liturgy Celebrations:** We encourage everyone to participate in songs and prayers.
- Keep the Sanctity of the Church**
 - **Remember the Church is a sacred place of Prayer and Worship.**
 - Please be silent while inside the church.
 - Switch phones off or put on silent mode.
 - Do not leave any rubbish like papers, tissues or chewing gum in the church.

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

25 Aug -21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Joshua 24: 1 – 2, 15 - 18
- Responsorial Psalm: 34
- 2nd R: Ephesians 5: 21 - 32
- Gospel: John 6: 60 – 69

1 Sept -22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 2, 6 - 8
- Responsorial Psalm: 34
- 2nd R: James 1: 17 – 18, 21 - 22, 27
- Gospel: Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 18th August 2024

Parish - \$1,953.70

Building Fund - \$327.80

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.

To whom shall we go?
You have the words
of eternal life.

John 6:69

NET
AUS & NZ

NET Recruiting

Young people deserve to hear the hope that Jesus brings. God has a plan for their lives!

NET are accepting applications from 18-35 year olds for ten months of life-changing mission in Australia & New Zealand for next year. Are you good at running camps? Are you interested in building up youth groups? Will you step out and share your story of how Jesus has impacted your life?

NET Ministries Australia and New Zealand do this in teams, fostering authentic relationships, being peer with peer on this journey of life together – sharing that faith 'fully alive' is possible.

If you want to take up the call of mission with NET, express your interest at www.netaus.org. NET will be excited to hear from you!

OR - if someone you know comes to mind - encourage them to check NET out

BECOMING A PRAYER

Last week one of my first cousins, Robin, celebrated his 83rd birthday in a celebration his daughter described as “full of love and laughter”. The next morning he died “as he would have wanted to, quickly and peacefully”.

Robin is a cousin on my mother’s non-Catholic side of the family, and when I saw the service sheet for the funeral. I thought that it would be a very secular funeral - but I was wrong. God is love and love permeated this whole service:

Robin’s love for his wife, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and their love for him were emphasised throughout in stories, poems, songs and many photographs of him holding a small child securely or playing a singing game with a child.

The whole experience brought to mind a story told by Sister Joan Chittister, a Benedictine Sister who has written numerous books on the spiritual life. Sr Joan was travelling on a flight from Manila to Tokyo. About an hour before the scheduled landing the captain came on the intercom to tell them that the onboard computer had advised them that there was something wrong with the landing gear and so they were preparing for a crash landing. She said that the noise in the cabin stopped completely so that there was silence as people packed up their gear, removed glasses and shoes and jewellery- and waited. They sat frozen through the sudden descent, the screeching down the runway and the landing amid a field of ambulances and fire trucks that, in the end, were not needed. When she was safely at home and telling the story someone asked her “Did you say a prayer?” “No”, she said “I didn’t say a prayer; I became a prayer”.

It was a similar thing with today’s funeral - although there were few specific verbal prayers I would say that it all became a prayer. Prayer comes on many levels, in many shapes and at many moments in life. None of them are really predictable and all of them are real. Joan Chittister makes the point that prayer is not a ‘technique’. It is an attitude of mind, a quality of soul and a dimension of the daily.

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore, may the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance, may your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth, may your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough to hear in the depths the laughter of God.

(John O’Donohue)

Sr Anne Phibbs