

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13th October 2024

SUNDAY - DAY OF PRAYER TO SUPPORT LIFE

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

Theme: We must give priority to God in our lives, not to our possessions. Today's readings remind us that we do not possess anything in our life that we refuse to surrender to the Lord. These things often possess us, for when we give our "things" top priority in our lives, we become the prisoners of our possessions. Thus, we violate the First Great Commandment, "*You shall not have other gods beside me*" which demands that we give absolute and unconditional priority to God.

The first reading advises us to use the God-given virtue of prudence in order to seek true wisdom and to distinguish them from vanishing earthly realities, like riches or political and social influence. Solomon chose Wisdom before everything else — and he received "everything else" along with it! Since Jesus is Wisdom Incarnate, when we put following Jesus ahead of everything else, we, too, receive "everything else" along with Jesus. In the **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 90), we beg God to teach us how to make proper judgments and choices in our lives that we may live with Him forever.

The second reading warns us that we are *accountable to God* for our use, or misuse, of His blessings, and that the "*living and effective word of God*" must be our guide in evaluating our use of His blessings.

In today's Gospel selection (Mk 10:17-30), we find **three sections**: a narrative about Jesus' encounter with a rich man, Jesus' sayings about wealth as a possible obstacle to discipleship, and Jesus' promise of reward for those who share their material possessions with the needy. Reminding the rich man of the commandments that deal with relationships with other people, Jesus challenged him to sell what he had, and to give the money to the poor. The disciples were shocked by this challenge. But Jesus declared that true religion consisted in one's sharing one's blessings with others rather than hoarding and/or getting inordinately attached to them.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

- Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5pm.
- October - Month of the Rosary** – Join us in praying the Holy Rosary throughout this month, from Monday to Friday at 6.00pm in the church.
- 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.

NOTICE FROM TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY

The Eucharist – A meal that unites and divides.

500 years of debates between Catholics and Protestants with Dr Nicholas Thompson

Monday, 21 October 2024, 7-8.30pm (Zoom).

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/09/24/debate-about-the-eucharist/>

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

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

20 Oct. 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Isaiah 53: 10 - 11
 - Responsorial Psalm: 33
 - 2nd R: Hebrews 4: 14 – 16
- Gospel: Mark 10: 35 - 45

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 6 October 2024

Parish - \$2,167.40

Building Fund - \$354.40

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

May God bless you always.

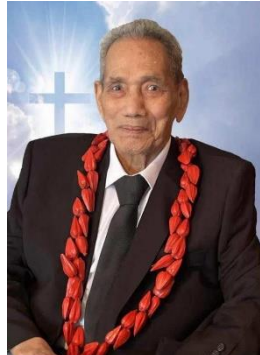
PARISH VISION STATEMENT

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.



"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Deepest condolences to the Vaoliko-Roache Family and the Felise Family during these sad times. Praying that God will comfort your hearts and fill your souls with love and peace, as you mourn the loss of your loved ones. With heartfelt sympathies and love. *Fr Isaac Songa (Parish Priest)*

CHOOSE LIFE

*"Therefore, **choose life** so that you and your descendants might live" Deuteronomy 30.19.* Moses urged *the people to choose life by choosing God*, listening to His voice and obeying his commands. This Sunday is Support Life Sunday with the theme *"Infinite Dignity - every person matters"*. We are reminded that all life is God's gift and that every human being possesses an infinite dignity simply by being. We are made in the image and likeness of God. We can support life by taking a stand on issues such as abortion, poverty, euthanasia, human trafficking, war and genocide to name a few of today's death-dealing issues. Most importantly we can pray for victims of these situations that are making life so full of death for fellow-citizens of our earth.

Did you know that the only Catholic Church in Gaza is the Holy Family Church? That surely gives us a link to the 300 or more people who have been sheltering in the Church compound. A Caritas worker who has been living there for months with his wife and children said *"We **choose life**, despite being surrounded by death"*. On December 16th an elderly woman and her daughter were walking across the compound to the Convent when they were fired upon by an Israeli sniper. One was killed outright and the other was killed as she tried to carry the other to safety. Seven others were shot and wounded. The Convent of the Missionaries of Charity was destroyed that day also, and the Sisters and the 54 people they were caring for were displaced

In spite of the extreme difficulties George and his family remained in the Holy Family Church compound. In January he wrote that the situation was increasingly tense and horrifying. Over the next few months, the struggle to secure food was exhausting. Nutritious food was non-existent and there were no medicines. The last I heard of him was in March when he said they attended Mass every day. They are determined to maintain the Christian presence in Palestine, saying *"If we go, who will show Jesus to the people of Gaza?"* The Gaza strip is believed to be the route taken by Jesus, Mary and Joseph when they were fleeing to Egypt to escape the slaughter of the Holy Innocents. This past year there has been another slaughter of innocents with 11,000 children having been killed in Gaza.

The new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bethlehem wrote on October 7th asking for prayers, saying suffering there has reached unimaginable levels. *"This year we have witnessed with sorrow entire families who have been torn apart, homes destroyed and lives uprooted. ... Today I ask you to keep us in your prayers and join in a plea for true and lasting peace in the Holy Land."*

We ask You, O God of Life, to give the world peace based on justice. You are the promise of our wholeness, awaiting our readiness to choose life. Your covenant of love stands firm through all the ages. We ask for peace through Jesus, your Son, who came to bring us life in all its fullness. Amen.

By Sr Anne Phibbs