

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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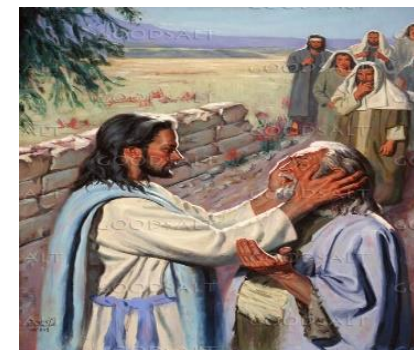


TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8th September 2024

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

Today's Scripture readings from Isaiah, James, and Mark give us two challenges: 1) Ask God's help to open our spiritually blind eyes, deaf ears, and free our mute tongue. 2) Share in Jesus' healing ministry by lending to him our eyes, ears, tongues, and hearts. The Responsorial Psalm (146) praises a God Who gives sight to the blind, raises the downtrodden, and welcomes strangers.



The Second reading, taken from St. James' Epistle to the Church (2:1-5) reminds us that as sharers in Christ's healing ministry, we must practice Christian social justice by showing no partiality, — that is, not shaming the poor by denying their rights to favour the rich. Instead, we must practise Christ's option for the poor.

Today's Gospel story explains how Jesus fulfils Isaiah's prophecy by healing a deaf-mute in six stages in an "audio-visual" way. Jesus i) separates him from the crowd ii) looks to heaven and groans iii) puts his fingers in the deaf man's ears iv) applies his own saliva to the mute man's tongue v) prays once again and vi) gives the command "Ephphatha!" or "Be opened!"

Life messages: 1). We need to pray daily for healing from our spiritual blindness, so that we really see God's presence in others, and act on what we see; from our spiritual deafness so that we will attentively listen to the word of God, hear the cry and needs of others, and meet them as far as we can, and end our spiritual muteness, so that we may be able to praise and worship God loudly and vibrantly during our family prayers at home and our liturgical prayers and hymns during the Holy Mass.

2). We need to recognize our share in Jesus' healing ministry by lending him our eyes, ears, tongues, hands, feet, our hearts, and all our talents and blessings so that he may use them for granting all sorts of healing to people around us in our homes, parishes, institutions, and society.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** start at 5.00pm
2. **Sacramental Programme Rehearsal for Confirmation** - Sunday 8th September at 3.00 – 4.00pm at the church.
3. **Sacrament of Reconciliation for all Candidates – Saturday 14th September at 2 – 4pm**
4. **Guidelines for Confirmation Sunday**
 - No singing or any type of music during the anointing of the candidates.
 - No cameras or recordings are allowed in the church during the ceremony. There will be a photographer taking pictures which will be distributed after.
 - No digital information displayed during the anointing ceremony.
 - Switch phones off or put on silent mode.
5. **Sacrament of Confirmation by Archbishop Paul Martin - Sunday 15th September at 9.30am.** All candidates and sponsors gather at the Presbytery at 8.45am for the Badges, and at the Foyer by 9.00am. **Shared Lunch** after Mass at the school hall. Please bring a plate to share.
6. **Sacrament of First Holy Communion – Sunday 29th September, Mass at 10.00am.**

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

8 Sept. 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Isaiah 35: 4 - 7
- Responsorial Psalm: 146
- 2nd R: James 2: 1 – 5
- Gospel: Mark 7: 31 – 37

15 Sept. 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Isaiah 50: 5 - 9
- Responsorial Psalm: 116
- 2nd R: James 2: 14 – 18
- Gospel: Mark 8: 27 – 35

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 1st September 2024

Parish - \$1,926.50
Building Fund - \$545.80

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.

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.

We all have ears, but very often we cannot hear. There is, in fact, an interior deafness worse than the physical one: the deafness of the heart that we can ask Jesus to touch and heal today.

Pope Francis.



LOVE AND SERVICE:

We are very fortunate to have the Missionary Sisters of Charity in our Parish and yesterday there was a lovely celebration of St Mother Teresa's feast day. I was fortunate enough to meet Mother Teresa when she visited Wellington. At a talk for religious she spoke about her work in Calcutta and then came over to where I was sitting. I said that the work she was doing in Calcutta was amazing and she asked where I worked. When I said "Porirua" she replied "Porirua is your Calcutta".

May their founder and patron, St Mother Teresa bring our own Missionaries of Charity many graces and blessings and assist them in their mission here in Holy Family Parish, and wherever they are sent as Missionaries from here.

Wisdom from St Mother Teresa: "Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love."

"God does not call you to be successful but calls you to be faithful."

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

The birthday of Our Lady was the usual day for novices to make their profession as Brigidine Sisters and this Sunday we are celebrating several anniversaries with Sr Helena Fouhy (previously known as Mother Paulinus) celebrating 80 years of profession. It's very appropriate that the 80th Jubilee is known as the Oak Jubilee because the oak is very significant to Brigidines. Our patroness is St Brigid of Kildare and Kildare means "the church of the Oak." She built her abbey and church under the shelter of an oak tree in Kildare, Ireland. When Bishop Delany re-established the Sisters of St Brigid he took an oak sapling from Kildare to Tullow, where he founded our group, and it is now a magnificent tree that is nearly 220 years old.

On this 80th anniversary of Sr Helena's profession as a Brigidine we are thankful for her many years of teaching - classroom teaching, music-teaching and principalship. Her first posting was to Johnsonville in 1944 but she also taught at St Patrick's, Masterton, St Pius X Titahi Bay and in Carterton and Foxton, with two ventures into secondary teaching at Viard College, Porirua and St Raphael's in Cowra, NSW. Much of this was pioneer work but Titahi Bay provided the greatest challenge. Before the Convent was built in Porirua in 1960 eight Brigidines, including Sr Helena, somehow fitted into a two-bedroomed beach house at 10 Main Road, later moving to 25 Terrace Road where the lounge became a dormitory for five Sisters and the largest of the three bedrooms held three beds. According to Sr Helena it was just as well the Sisters were endowed with common sense and a sense of humour.

Wisdom from Bishop Daniel Delany: "Do everything in a spirit of love and you will not find your hands empty at journey's end."

"What you are those who come after you will be."

"From every seed sown and cultivated by love we shall be sure to reap a rich harvest."

By Sr Anne Phibbs