

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**

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5.00pm.
2. **October - Month of the Holy Rosary** – Join us in praying the Rosary throughout this month, Monday to Friday at 6.00pm in the church.
3. **Holy Mass to conclude the month of the Holy Rosary**
Thurs 31 October at 6.30pm
4. **All Saints Day** – Mass on Friday 1st November at **9.15am**. Students from Viard College will join us in this celebration.
5. **All Souls Day – Saturday 2nd November. Mass at 3pm** for the souls of the faithful departed will be celebrated at the Whenua Tapu Cemetery
We still have the 9am Mass in the church.
 - Write and place in the box the names of your departed loved ones and friends, so we can pray for their souls throughout this month.
6. **Liturgy Committee Meeting** – Tuesday 4th November, 6.00pm at the Presbytery.
7. **Holy Family Parish website:** Click on the link below to access.
<https://www.holyfamilyparish.nz/>
8. **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.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH



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For Emergencies, please contact:

Fr. Isaac Songa (Parish Priest): 021 089-0555

Fr. Nicholas Phone Mynt (Assistant Priest): 021 090-62933

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27th October 2024

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

The central theme of today's readings is the overflowing mercy and kindness of a loving, healing, and forgiving God for His children.

The first reading tells us how a forgiving, compassionate God has been healing the spiritual blindness of His Chosen People by subjecting them to captivity in Babylon; now He will liberate them, bringing them back to their homeland. Connected to this reading is the Jerusalem journey of Jesus in the company of the lame and the blind in today's Gospel, in which healing of the blind Bartimaeus is seen as the fulfilment of Jeremiah's joyful prophecy of the exiled Jews return from Babylon to their homeland. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 126) gives us the same encouraging promise "*those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing!*" Today's second reading, taken from Hebrews 5, presents Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for sins and as the true *High Priest* of the New Testament. It also gives us the assurance that our *High Priest, the sinless Jesus*, is sympathetic to us because Jesus has shared our human nature in everything, including temptation, but not sin.

Today's Gospel explains how Jesus shows the mercy and compassion of His Heavenly Father by healing the blind Bartimaeus. Just as *the blind and the lame* were God's concern in the first reading, Jesus is concerned with the blind beggar, Bartimaeus of Jericho. On hearing that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, Bartimaeus loudly expressed his trusting Faith in the healing power of Jesus by shouting his request, "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" When Jesus invited him to come near, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak (suggesting, perhaps, the baptismal divesting). His meeting with Jesus gave Bartimaeus the gift of spiritual as well as physical sight, and the former blind beggar became a disciple of Jesus.

Life message: Instead of remaining in spiritual blindness, let us pray for spiritual sight. Each one of us suffers from spiritual blindness. Hence, we need the light of the Holy Spirit to end our darkness and grant us proper spiritual vision. Let us learn to recognize the causes of our spiritual blindness. Anger, hatred, jealousy, evil habits, addictions, sloth etc. make us spiritually blind, and they prevent us from seeing the goodness and presence of God in our family members and neighbours.

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

27 Oct. 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Jeremiah 31: 7 - 9
- Responsorial Psalm: 126
- 2nd R: Hebrews 5: 1 – 6
- Gospel: Mark 10: 46 - 52

3 Nov. 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1st R: Deuteronomy 6: 2 - 6
- Responsorial Psalm: 18
- 2nd R: Hebrews 7: 23 – 28
- Gospel: Mark 12: 28 - 34

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 20 October 2024

Parish - \$2,936.10

Building Fund - \$512.20

Mission Sunday - \$1,071.00

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.

The faith of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, shines. He asks everything of the One who can do everything: "Have mercy on me". He doesn't ask for a favour, but presents himself: he asks for mercy on his person, on his life.

Pope Francis



FORGIVENESS

Corrie ten Boom's readiness to forgive reminded me of something I read many years ago. Two men happened to be in the same railway carriage on a long journey. As the train approached a small town the younger of the men became agitated and worried. When asked what was wrong, he told of his having left his home years before. He said "I was arrogant, ungrateful and selfish and I said so many things to my family I've regretted. I've had no contact with them since then, but last week I sent word that I would be passing on the train today. If they forgave me, would they put a yellow ribbon on one of the branches of the old tree in our yard and I'll get off at the station. But I'm too afraid to look!" He asked the other man to look for him. Soon he was being shaken and told he must come and see. There was not just one yellow ribbon on the tree but there were hundreds of yellow ribbons fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Jesus' wonderful story about forgiveness is usually called "The Prodigal Son" but would more accurately be called "The Forgiving Father." Jesus shocked his audience, the Pharisees, by having the Father run to his son. Culturally a disrespected father would have waited for some sign of remorse - but this Father was exceptional. He kissed his son, called for robes, rings and the fatted calf to be readied for a feast. We can easily see that this father is God, our loving Father, who watches over us when we stray from Him. He knows our greatest failures yet He loves us and is waiting for us to come home to Him. In the letter to the Ephesians (and to us) we are urged to "Let all bitterness and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you."

Love in Forgiveness:

I forgive you for what you have said and done.

I forgive you for what you believe to be true.

I forgive you for making light of the hurt you have caused.

I forgive you for not saying sorry.

I do not withhold my love.

If I ever do so, please forgive me.

Modern prayer from Tel Aviv, Israel.

Heavenly Father, I release any resentment and bitterness I hold against those who have wronged me.

Just as you have forgiven me, help me extend forgiveness to others.

Teach me to love my enemies and to pray for those who have hurt me. Amen.

By: Sister Anne Phibbs