

**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 – **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11.00am**

Cook Islands – **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00am**

Myanmar Community – **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11.00am**

Tokelau – **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 11am at St. John of the Cross**

Multicultural Mass – **Every 5<sup>th</sup> 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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## THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**

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

The central message of today's readings is the most fundamental principle of all religions, especially Christianity. **It is to love God in Himself and living in others.** Scripture readings for today remind us that we are created to love God by loving others and to love others as an expression of our love for God. Our religious practices, like prayers, Bible reading, Sacraments, acts of penance, and self-control, are meant to help us to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God in our neighbours and to express our love for God by serving our neighbours with love, sharing our blessings with them.

How do we love God? We must keep God's commandments, and offer daily prayers of thanksgiving, praise, contrition for our failings, and petition. We also need to read and meditate on His word in the Holy Bible and to participate actively in the Holy Mass and other liturgical functions. If I am going to love God with **all** my heart, soul, mind, and strength, then I am going to have to place His will ahead of mine, and to ask Him for help when I have to say no to some things that I might want to do. I am also going to have to seek the Lord's will and make it paramount in my life.

How do we love our neighbour? We love our neighbour by helping, supporting, encouraging, forgiving, and praying for everyone, without discrimination based on colour, race, gender, age, wealth, or social status. If I am going to love my neighbour as I love myself, or as Jesus has loved me, it will cost me suffering as it did Jesus!

I may have to seek forgiveness when I think I have done something wrong. I may have to sacrifice something I think I need, to meet a brother's need. I may have to spend time in prayer for other people and reach out to them, helping, encouraging, and supporting them in the name of the Lord.

## PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Every Sunday at 5.00pm.
2. **Month of November – dedicated to the Holy Souls.**  
*Write the names of deceased relatives and friends and place in the box provided. We remember and pray for them in every Mass throughout November.*
3. **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November; 6.00pm at the Presbytery.**
4. **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, water bottles or chewing gum in the church.

## SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

### 3 Nov. 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

### 10 Nov. 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1<sup>st</sup> R: 1 Kings 17: 10 - 16
- Responsorial Psalm: 146
- 2<sup>nd</sup> R: Hebrews 9: 24 – 28
- Gospel: Mark 12: 38 - 44

### PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 27 October 2024

Parish - \$2,152.90

Building Fund - \$514.70

*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.

Love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable and are mutually related. Jesus did not invent one or the other but revealed that they are essentially a single commandment and did so not only through the Word, but especially with his testimony: the person of Jesus and his whole Mystery embody the unity of love of God and neighbour, like the two arms of the Cross, vertical and horizontal.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Nov. 4, 2012.

### MOVING INTO NOVEMBER:

Last week the Church gave us an interesting week. It began on Sunday with the canonisation of 14 new saints, three who had founded religious orders and 11 Martyrs of Damascus. In 1860 there was an anti-Christian uprising in Syria and Lebanon. More than 60 villages were destroyed and it is estimated that some 12,000 Christians were slain in Lebanon and 11,000 in Syria. The Christian neighbourhood of Damascus was set alight and people took refuge in the Franciscan Monastery. Amongst those seeking refuge were three brothers - Francis, Abdel Moati and Raphael Massabski. All three were well-known for the time they devoted to prayer as well as their works of charity. Francis was the father of eight children, and Abdel Moati father of five. After midnight a band of Muslim rioters broke into the monastery and said to Francis "Sheikh Abdallah has sent us to save you from death ...on the condition that you renounce your faith and convert to Islam." Francis said the Sheikh could take the money he had lent him, "he can also take my life, but my faith no-one can make me deny. I am a Maronite Christian and in the faith of Christ I will die." He was murdered with swords and dagger; then his younger brother was seized and also told to deny his faith in order to save his life. In a clear voice he said: "I am a Christian; kill me. I am ready." Raphael was found and given the same choice - convert or die. They were both killed just as their brother had been and were later buried with the 8 Franciscan Friars who were also killed that night.

There are many Churches named All Hallows (All Saints) and "Hallowed" is a word we are very familiar with from the Our Father - 'Hallowed be thy name. The word "Halloween" means the eve of All Saints Day but its basis is a pagan festival which comes from the Celtic belief that the border between the living and the dead was blurred on 31 October, their festival of Samhain which marked the end of summer and the coming of winter. Because they believed souls could come back on that day they dressed in weird costumes, lit bonfires and had rituals to keep away evil spirits.

All Saints and All Souls are always memorable days which lead us into November, the month when we remember in a special way, and pray for, all those we love who have died. On All Saints' Day we remember those who have been officially recognised as being saints; those who have already reached eternal life with God and are worthy of public veneration and imitation. Their names are entered into the Canon (catalogue) of official saints. In the early centuries only the names of the apostles, the Blessed Virgin, St Joseph and martyrs were entered into the Canon. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century confessors were added - people who confessed their faith not by dying but by the way they lived. In these early centuries there were many "folk" saints who were declared to be saints by the people who had witnessed their good lives and their miracles. These days there is a very complicated process which leads to canonisation.

Following a second authenticated miracle through the intercession of Carl Acutis, Pope Francis agreed to the canonisation of this teenaged computer whizz who loved gaming. Carlo was noted for his cheerfulness, his computer skills, devotion to the Eucharist and love of St Francis. He used the internet in the service of the Gospel to reach as many people as possible. Keen to pass on the faith to younger generations he designed and set up a web-site cataloguing miracles and appearances of Mary. He had leukaemia and offered his sufferings for the Pope and the Church. He died in 2006 at the age of 15.

On All Souls' Day we remember all who have died, and pray for them. Praying for the dead was recorded in the Old Testament and from the beginning the Church has always remembered the dead and offered prayers for them, particularly the Holy Eucharist, so that they could attain the full vision of God.

by Sister Anne Phibbs