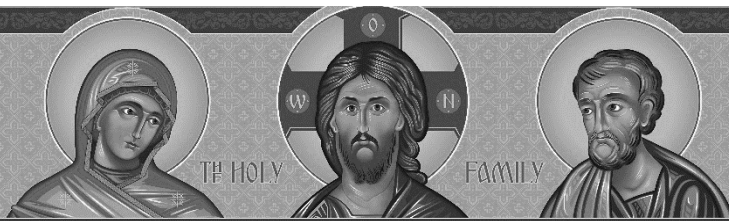


*Holy
Family*



*Catholic
Parish*

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 12th of February 2023

FIRST READING : Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21;

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34



℟. *They are-- happy who follow God's law-!*

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will seeking him with all their hearts. ℟.

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. ℟.

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. ℟.

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. ℟.

SECOND READING : 1 Corinthians 2:6-10;

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

GOSPEL : Matthew 5:17-37;

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery.* But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal.* But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.* But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

THE CATHOLIC CARING FOUNDATION

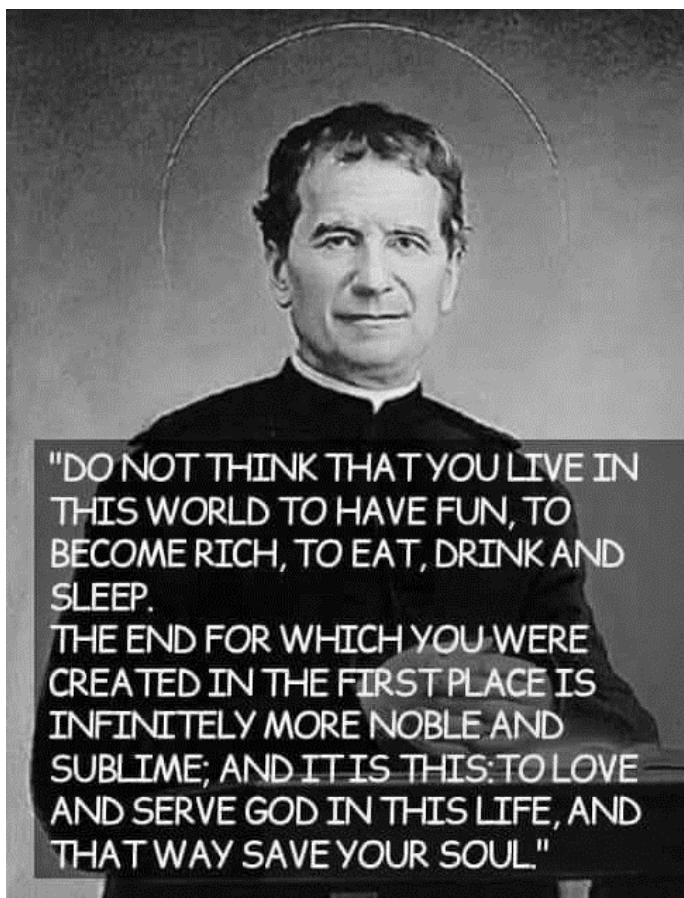


Flooding Relief Appeal

DONATE TODAY

THE CATHOLIC
caring
FOUNDATION
*Caring for Families,
Caring for Communities.*

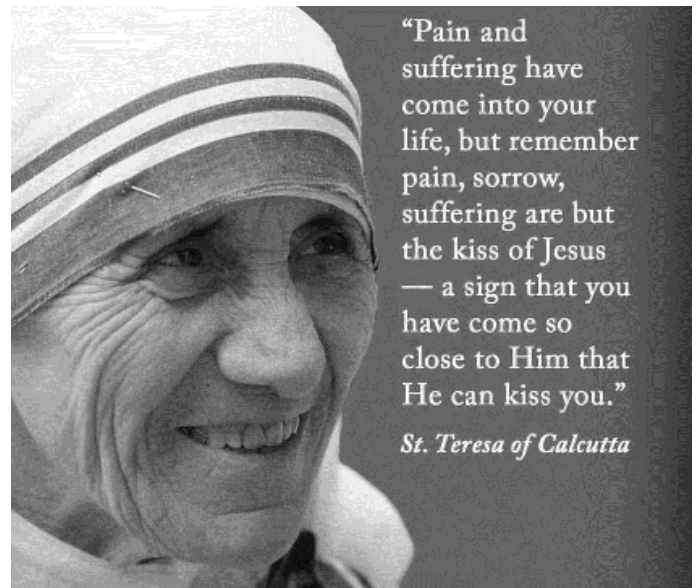
<https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/>



"DO NOT THINK THAT YOU LIVE IN THIS WORLD TO HAVE FUN, TO BECOME RICH, TO EAT, DRINK AND SLEEP. THE END FOR WHICH YOU WERE CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE IS INFINITELY MORE NOBLE AND SUBLIME; AND IT IS THIS: TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD IN THIS LIFE, AND THAT WAY SAVE YOUR SOUL."

If we only knew how God regards this Sacrifice, we would risk our lives to be present at a single Mass.

- St. Padre Pio -



"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Prayer is the cure for a confused mind, a weary soul, and a broken heart.

Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray.

- St. Louis de Montfort -

Ven. Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan of Vietnam

I was in prison for 13 years, 9 of which in solitary confinement. Two guards watched me but never spoke to me; just yes and no. But I knew that after all, they were my brothers and I had to be kind to them. I had no gift to offer as a prisoner. I had nothing at all, nothing to please them. What to do? One night, a thought came. "You are still very rich. You have the love of Christ in your heart. Love them as Jesus loves you".

The next day I set to work, first, by showing gladness and by smiling. I began to tell stories about my journeys in countries where people live in freedom and enjoy their culture and great technical progress. That stimulated their curiosity and they asked many, many questions. Slowly, very slowly, we became friends. They wanted to learn foreign languages. My guards became my disciples! The atmosphere of the prison changed considerably. The quality of our relationship changed for the better.

At that time, in another part of the area, a group of twenty people were learning Latin to be able to read Church documents. Their teacher was a former catechist. One of my guards was in the Latin class, and one day he asked me if I could teach him songs in Latin. "There are so many", I replied, "And they are all so beautiful". "You sing and I'll choose", he retorted. And so I sang *Salve Regina*, *Salve Mater*, *Lauda Sion*, *Veni Creator*, *Ave Maris Stella* - You'll never guess the song he chose. The *Veni Creator*! I can't begin to tell you how moving it is to be in a Communist prison and hear your guard, coming down the stairs at 7 AM every morning, on his way to the gymnastics yard for physical exercises, singing the *Veni Creator*!

I will speak one language: Charity. While at prison in Vinh-Quang in the mountains of North Vietnam, I was sawing wood one afternoon. I asked my ever-present guard, who had become my friend, if I could ask him for a favor. "What is it? I'll help you." "I want to saw off a small piece of wood in the form of a cross." "Don't you know that's strictly forbidden to have any sign of religion whatsoever?" "I promise to keep it hidden." "But it would be extremely dangerous for the both of us." "Close your eyes, I'll do it right now and I'll be very careful." He turned his back and left me alone. I sawed a small cross which I later hid in a piece of melted down soap. I have kept it always and had it mounted in a piece of metal and it has become my pectoral cross. In another prison in Hanoi, I became friends with my guard and was able to request a piece of metal wire. He was terrified. "I studied in the University of Police that when someone wants electric wire, he wants to kill himself!" he cried.

I explained that Christians, and most of all priests, do not commit suicide. "And so what are you going to do with electric wire?" he asked. "I need a chain to wear my cross." "But how can you make a chain from wire?" "If you bring me two little pincers, I'll show you." "Much too dangerous!"

"But we're friends!" He hesitated and finally said, "It's too hard to refuse. Tonight at 7 PM we'll do it. But we have to finish before 11. I'll have my companion take the evening off. If he knew, he'd denounce the both of us." That evening, with the tools he brought, we cut and shaped and worked together to make my chain and we finished it before 11 PM! This cross and chain are not only my souvenir of captivity, as precious as that may seem. They are a constant reminder that only Christian charity can bring about a change of heart. Not arms, not threats, not the media.

It was very hard for my guards to understand when I spoke about loving our enemies, reconciliation, and forgiveness. "Do you really love us?" "Yes, I really love you." "Even when we cause you pain? When you suffer because you're in prison without trial?" "Look at all the years we've spent together. Of course, I love you!" "And when you get out, will you tell your people to find us and beat us and hurt our families?" "I'll continue to love you even if you wish to kill me." "But why?" "Because Jesus taught us to love always; if we don't, we are no longer worthy to be called Christians." There is not enough time to tell you all the other moving stories which are proof of the liberating power of the love of Jesus. You wear one uniform and speak one language - Charity. Charity is the sign by which you will be recognized as one of our Lord's disciples. It is a badge which costs little but is most difficult to find. Charity is the most important language. Saint Paul regarded it as far more important than being able "to speak the languages of men and even of angels".



PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
All else be nought to me,
save that thou art.
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true word;
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father;
thine own may I be:
Thou in me dwelling,
and I one with thee.

High King of heaven,
when victory is won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Lord, make me to know thy ways,
O Lord. O Lord, teach me thy paths,
O Lord. O lead me in thy truth,
and teach me, for thou art
the God of my salvation.

All highest glorious God,
Cast Your light into
the darkness of my heart,
Give me right faith, firm hope,
perfect charity,
and profound humility,
with wisdom and perception,
O Lord, that I may do
what is truly Your will.

COMMUNION HYMN:

*Sicut cervus desiderat
ad fontes aquarum ita desiderat,
anima mea ad te Deus.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Immaculate Mary!
Our hearts are on fire;
that title so wondrous
Fills all our desire!
*Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!*

We pray for God's glory,
May His kingdom come;
We pray for His Vicar,
Our Father in Rome.
*Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!*

We pray for our Mother,
The Church upon earth,
And bless, sweetest Lady,
The land of our birth.
*Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!*



Look after them the way
they looked after you.

There are certain people in life who shape who you are. Special people who were always there to give you advice, support, comfort and love. When the time comes to bid them farewell, make sure you farewell them properly. Talk to us, we'll help you do just that.

MORRISONS
FUNERALS

220 Universal Dr. Henderson | 725 Mount Albert Rd. Royal Oak
79 Line Rd. Glen Innes

09 836 0029 | morrisons.co.nz

**Go Forward in Hope
International Pro-Life & Family
Conference -
Thursday 23 to Sunday 26
March, Auckland.**

Be informed, inspired, and equipped to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Life and counter the sexual revolution with compassion. Featuring thirteen international and local speakers passionate about their areas of expertise in pro-life and family issues - including Gianna Emanuela Molla, the daughter of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla. For more information and to register visit fli.org.nz/conference2023 or Michelle Kaufman 027 526 1199.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Caring Foundation Emergency Flood Response Appeal Bishop Steve has launched an emergency flood response appeal to help families in desperate need. The Caring Foundation, will be accepting donations to help Catholic agencies in the diocese deliver vital help to the many families severely impacted by the floods. Donations can be made directly online to the Foundation <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/>

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland presents, "A journey through History". Over two Saturdays, we will walk through the journey of our salvation history, exploring biblical milestones from Genesis to Revelation. 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. |Saturday, 4 March & 11 March 2023. POMPALLIER DIOCESAN CENTRE - 30 NEW ST - PONSONBY. Please Register By 28th February 2023 |To Deacon Steve on Stephenf@cda.org.nz

NEXT SUNDAY:

19th February 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary time (Yr A)

*Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23;
Mt 5:38-48;*

LITURGY ROSTER

Readers: J. Brodie, E. O'Brien

Prayers of the Faithful: G. Lao

Offertory: Leite Family

Special Ministers: F. Ulugia

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

No Cleaning - Adoration

SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER

Mothers Group

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

12 Feb: Kevin Burt

13 Feb: Lorna Moros

15 Feb: Jack Drabble, Olga Schischka

16 Feb: William Campbell,
Mary Woolmore

17 Feb: Frances, Alexander
and Jennifer Lindsay,

Annie Ferry, Violet Henkel

18 Feb: Paea, Christopher and Moana
Poanga, Rose Wallace,
Lynette Tomkinson

PARISH FINANCES

Parish	\$1,616.80
Priests	\$808.40
Total Cash and AP's	\$2,425.20

HOLY FAMILY PARISH NOTICES

Fr Jeremy's Birthday Morning Tea - next Sunday 19th February after the 9:30am Mass, *please bring a plate.*

Catechism Classes - Meet in the Bugler Centre after the 9:30am Mass today.

Sacramental Programme - 1st Reconciliation - Please make a note on your calendars - Classes start 4th March 2023, 4pm to 5pm.

NZ Catholic on Sale \$4 each - before and after the Masses this weekend.

Lenten Envelopes - can be found in the foyer.



**Ash Wednesday
Masstimes**

Wednesday 22nd February
9am & 7pm

Stations of the Cross
during Lent
starts Friday 24th February
7pm



Old palm crosses: *Please drop your old palm crosses to the office by Tuesday 21st February. You can drop them in the little mailbox.*