



CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PARISH
KO TE KARAITI KEI TE PŪ
Christ in the Centre
ŌTAUTAHI - CHRISTCHURCH

15th August 2021

The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year B

Alpha Programme and the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Life is a journey. It is a journey leading us back to our true home in heaven from where we have come into the world. In this journey of life, we may often come up with challenging questions, such as: where do I come from? what difference can I make? where am I going? am I travelling on the right track? how can I find my purpose and meaning for my life?

To answer such questions, we really need to have faith in the Lord. Yes, faith can help us to answer many questions, solve many problems and comprehend a lot of mysteries. However, living in a modern world, our faith culture is shifting. In the past, most people would be happy to listen and then feel satisfied to accept the truth. These days, increasingly, people are not satisfied to just listen and accept the truth. They want to process and discover the truth for themselves. They need to discuss their doubts and wrestle with the questions they have in order to meet, know and love the God who loves them among a community who accepts, supports and cares for them.

One of the courses which can help people to broaden, strengthen, nurture and enrich their faith in God is Alpha. Alpha has become internationally well-known. It creates a judgement-free space within the local church for people to share their points of view, to get to know the faith journeys of other people, and to experience the message of the gospel in a powerful and potent way.

Alpha is a proven, effective, and powerful tool for people to come to know Jesus more personally. It helps them to learn to trust in Christ better. It assists people to feel welcome in the community and urges them to be welcoming and hospitable to others. It gives us the chance to be the kind of missionary disciples that God has called us all to be.

Alpha has been quite successful in our parish community so far. A good number of parishioners have participated in this course and many of them have made positive comments about this special programme. Alpha is an engine for life transformation for our local parish and the universal Church. We need this programme to empower our parish and each of us should consider participating in this course to deepen and enrich our faith.

The Catholic Bishops of New Zealand have chosen Te Ara o Maria or Mary's Way as the name to renew Bishop Pompallier's 1838 dedication of this country to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven. Today, all the Bishops of the country will gather in Wellington for a special Mass at Saint Mary of the Angels Church, which will become the national shrine of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven. Today parishes throughout the country are invited to join in prayer for the renewal of the dedication.

Mother Mary plays a marvellous role as the model of discipleship. She was the first and the best disciple of the Lord. She leads us in the way of missionary discipleship. On this beautiful Feast, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I invite and encourage you to make special efforts to participate in our parish activities, especially in the Alpha course, so that our faith can be enhanced and we may be joyful to share the Good News with others as our heavenly Mother shared it with her cousin Elizabeth and many others.

Fr. Thanh
Assistant Priest

PARISH INFORMATION

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm
Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am,
11am Choral Mass, 4.30pm,
6.00pm

Te Rangimarie Centre
11:00am (Miha Māori)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Friday
7.30am, 9.15am, 12.05pm
Saturday 9.15am
Public Holiday 9.15am

RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday 11.30am
Saturday 9.45am

APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

Archbishop Paul Martin SM

PRESBYTERY

03 377 5610

CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Simon Eccleton

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PARISH OFFICE

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Office Hours

Mon 8:30am - 12 noon
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PARISH PASTORAL WORKERS

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READINGS FOR THE DAY APOC 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10; 2ND: 1 COR 15: 20-26

GOSPEL: LUKE 1: 39-56

PSALM RESPONSE: THE QUEEN STANDS AT YOUR RIGHT HAND, ARRAYED IN GOLD.

“Rest in the Lord” Reconciliation Service Join us this coming Friday, 20th August, at 7.00pm for a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation followed by a period of prayer in the Taize tradition. Come for part or all of this event. A time to rest in the Lord and be refreshed in spirit. Invite a friend to come with you. They may be waiting to be asked!

St Vincent de Paul This week we have helped **102 people** in our community. Our pantry is in need of **baked beans, tinned soup, tinned fish and sweet treat biscuits**. SVDP Donation envelopes are available in the Narthex by the picture of St Vincent de Paul. Should you wish to make an online donation to SVDP the account number is 03 1700 0027831 00. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

“Let’s talk Catholicism” Participate in discussions using the series “Catholicism” developed by Bishop Robert Barron, of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. This engaging formational DVD programme uses art, architecture, literature, music and other Catholic treasures to explore what Catholics believe and why, to aid a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. **First session is August 18th, 7:30 – 9.00pm in the Assisi Lounge**. All welcome. Contact John & Celia Kennedy for further information: cm.jmkennedy@gmail.com

Workshop Sue and Wayne McTague will be presenting their workshop from the Parish Conference earlier in the year, entitled “Everybody Hurts: Evangelising Hospitality”. Come along on Saturday 21st August at 10.00am in the Assisi Lounge.

St Mary’s and Inner-City Catholic Women’s League Father’s Day Raffle tickets will be on sale at all Masses at St Mary’s on the weekends of 21/22 and 28/29 August. Tickets are \$2.00 each or a book of 6 tickets for \$10.00. Proceeds will go towards the Down Syndrome Association CAMP. Please support this worthy cause.

Being Received in the Church Next Sunday Luke Sweeney and Dale Ledingham will be received in to the Church at the 9:30am Mass. Their journey of faith is a witness of God very much at work in our midst.

Masses have been offered for:

Mary D’Souza, Luiza Fernandes (recent); Maria Kilkelly, John Chapman, Patrick & Joseph Keane, Mary and Luke Keane, Mary Halpin, Joseph Thomas Thachankary (anniversary), Thanksgiving (1); Souls in Purgatory (3); Special Intention (2) and Freddie Dick for continued healing.



Alpha is beginning again in our Parish at the beginning of September. Alpha is a series that is suitable for people at all walks of life and faith levels. We are beginning with a Come and See session on Monday 6th September at 7.00pm and Wednesday 8th September at 10.00am. We encourage you to invite your friends and family who have questions on faith to come. We encourage members of the Parish to come and be refreshed in your faith plus to know and understand the programme. Alpha is part of our Parish life and those who attended last time had amazing experiences. To register scan the QR code in the foyer or email cathedralalphachch@gmail.com

Flourish Charity Op Shop The John Paul II Centre for Life Pregnancy Centre is rebranding and moving into the city. Later this month they will be opening Flourish Charity Op Shop which will be the front door to the pregnancy services they provide plus it will help fund the work. At this point they are looking for good quality items for their op shop - clothing, books, quality bric-a-brac. This can be dropped off to John Paul Centre on Idris Road until the 23rd August. They are looking for people to volunteer in the shop. If you can help please phone 351 3225 or email info@jp2.org.nz

Parish Quiz Afternoon Our Parish Young Adults Group are hosting a quiz evening on **Sunday 26th September, 5.00pm at the Cranford Ale House** (please note date change). We are fundraising towards Disaster and Conflict Relief in Lebanon. \$40 for a team of up to 6 people, and individuals are \$5 each. Children 12 and under free. Sign up details to follow. Please save the date.

New Parishioner Evening All new parishioners who did not attend our last New Parishioner evening in May are invited to a Wine and Cheese welcome time on Friday 27th August at 5:30pm in the Assisi Lounge. Come along to hear something of our parish mission, to meet the Parish team and others who are new.

RCIC: Rite of Christian Initiation of Children is a journey to faith designed to prepare children who have reached the age of seven and above to become Catholic. Parents who are seeking baptism for their children who have reached the age of seven and above should contact Fr Job. This journey begins in September with a parents’ meeting.