



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

29th August 2021, 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Step into the Light!

How are you doing? As I write this, the sun is streaming in the window and I can feel the warmth of the sun and I feel comforted. According to the weather forecast, by the time you read this it will be wet and grey. I know I may not be feeling as good then as I'll be missing the sun which is good for my soul.

When Jesus said he was the 'Light of the World' I am sure he was thinking of me. The light and darkness analogy speaks to me. When I am standing in the sunshine I feel a warmth that makes me feel as though someone is wrapping their arms around me. When I am in the sunshine I feel motivated; I could change the world. When I stand with Jesus, and when Jesus is in my heart; I feel loved, and I am ready to go out and use my gifts to share his light wherever I go.

The darkness is when I decide to turn my back on Jesus. This could be when I neglect prayer or when I am unkind or selfish - this begins to put me the dark.

Watching the news in the evening is not good for your soul - you begin to think that there isn't any light in the world. There is so much darkness and sadness and it is easy to feel anxious and that the world is out of control. It might feel as though we cannot do anything but the fact is we can. We need to step into the light in our own place. Stepping into light is stepping into a deeper relationship with Jesus. On the recent Alpha, someone who had been a faithful Mass-goer most of their life commented about how they had no idea the potential the Holy Spirit had for us. The Holy Spirit is the power of God living in us. Have you ever considered how God could use you if you called upon the Holy Spirit? Being filled with the Holy Spirit will bring light to the world. The Holy Spirit will help you discover what purpose God has for you and the gifts he has given you and he will give you the power to use them. I think we underestimate the change we can bring about in the world if we step into the light and call upon the Holy Spirit. Just imagine the transformation that would take place if the 1500 people in our Parish went deeper in our relationship with God, and called upon the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.



How do we do this? Come along to Alpha as a starting point, as this has been a key takeaway for many people on Alpha. Take time each day in prayer, and simply ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your life. All these things will help you step more fully into the light.

We plan to continue with Alpha. We will start online on Monday 6th September. When we are in Level 2 we will look at moving face to face for those who wish and staying online for others. Please register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0sZMWIKJ8ymXzjVbMsvqiP_fAxXkFISbmq4Fj5kmK26Peeg/viewform
or email cathedralalphachch@gmail.com



Clare Bell
Pastoral Worker

Parish Facebook Connect with the Parish via Facebook. There will be lots of posts to keep you encouraged at this time.

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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ASSISTANT PRIESTS

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Fr Thanh Tran
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PARISH OFFICE

03 379 1068

Office Hours

Mon 8:30am - 12 noon
Tues - Fri 8:30am - 2.00pm

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READINGS FOR THE DAY DEUT 4: 1-2, 6-8; JAMES 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27

GOSPEL: MARK 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PSALM RESPONSE: THE JUST WILL LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

Dear Parishioners,

Covid-19 Alert Level Today (Friday 27th August) the government announced that the country south of Auckland will move from Level 4 to Level 3 at 11.59pm next Tuesday. While any reduction of alert level is pleasing, practically speaking restrictions on movements are still substantially the same. People are still expected to stay at home at Level 3. We continue with the live-stream Masses each day. Check our parish website and Facebook page for resources to use over these days. If you need help I encourage you to contact one of the priests at the presbytery or contact a pastoral worker or the parish office. Contact details on the newsletter as usual. It's normal to feel overwhelmed at times. A pandemic is an extraordinary event. We want to help you when you need it.

Online Mass The parish offers live-streamed Mass every day at 9am. Go to the Christchurch Diocese's YouTube page https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbDyKPjjDeYWfpoz_hSDLfw/videos I especially encourage you to do this on Sunday. Make it a special event. Dress up for the occasion, light a candle, turn off cell phones and other distractions. Have some quiet time before Mass begins, read the scriptures before Mass starts and so be attuned to the mystery of faith about to unfold. We want Sunday to be different from the other days of the week.

Engaging with the Parish If you use Facebook, you will see that each day our parish team posts a variety of resources for you. Each day there is Morning Prayer. We post photos sent into us from around the parish showing what's happening in our homes. There are reflections on faith and interviews with parishioners. You will see stories about the saints. I even post a video reflection each week!

Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10.00am A fun way to keep our little ones connected with God in worship. This has proven to be very popular.

Our **Parish App** ensures that we can send you important information directly to your phone. We send our newsletter to everyone who gives us their email address. Encourage friends to sign up.

Watching out for each other The advent of the internet, social media and smart phones has been a boon for us during these lockdown times. I am aware that there are some parishioners who do not have access to this technology. Please be part of the solution to this problem. When you pick up useful information, give thought to friends or family who may be missing out. Phone them and talk them through what is happening. No one needs to be isolated.

Responding to Suffering in our World It can be overwhelming when we see the human tragedy of Afghanistan and the suffering of the people in Haiti on the news. These horrific situations are beamed into our homes, and we wonder how we should respond. There are two responses we can make which are immediate and powerful. Firstly pray for the people involved. Prayer is powerful and it changes things. Pray ... every day. Secondly consider making a donation via Caritas to equip our Catholic aid agency to provide practical and speedy relief to those in greatest need around the world. Go to <https://caritas.org.nz/>

Financial Support for the Parish We are so grateful for those who send us their Sunday offering via bank direct credit. This means that even when we cannot gather for Mass, we receive your funds to continue meeting our fixed costs (staff wages, insurance, equipment lease etc) and the day-to-day cost of our projects and commitments. If you normally donate by envelope, I encourage you to continue your gifting via internet banking during this lockdown time. Bank account number: **03-1592-0207236-20**. Please include your surname and planned giving number if you know it (it is stamped on your envelopes).

What lockdown levels mean for us:

Level 3 or 4 lockdown – our churches are closed.

Online Mass every day at 9.00am, with the Sunday Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul, on the diocesan YouTube page - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbDyKPjjDeYWfpoz_hSDLfw

Level 2 lockdown – Up to 100 people can attend Mass but you must register for the Mass you wish to attend. Sign up via the diocesan or parish web page (as we've done previously). At Level 2, Sunday Masses are:

Saturday 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm.

Sunday 7.00am, 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 4.00pm and 5.00pm

It is important that once we go down to Level 2 you register for the Mass you want to attend.

We will get through these dark days, and by God's grace we will be stronger for it. Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven, pray for us in these unprecedented times.

Father Simon Eccleton
Cathedral Parish Administrator

Masses have been offered for:

Mr V M Mathew (father of Fr Mathew Siji); Louise Farrant (sister of Fr Peter Farrant), James McGahey, Rachael Harris (recent).

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Catholic Church encourages the faithful to make frequent, if not daily, communion. When we cannot attend daily Mass, or are at Mass on Sundays and weekdays, and are unable to receive Holy Communion because of personal circumstances, we can still make a spiritual communion. A spiritual communion is made when we express our faith in Christ and in His presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*



Prayer during the Coronavirus pandemic (Adapted from USCCB)

Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.