



CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PARISH

KO TE KARAITI KEI TE PŪ

Christ in the Centre

ŌTAUTAHI · CHRISTCHURCH

21st May 2023

The Ascension of the Lord

Our Eyes are Lifted to Heaven



This weekend several events coalesce into a rather special time for us as Catholic Christians. Today is the **Feast of the Ascension of the Lord**. We recall that extraordinary moment after Jesus rises from the dead. He bids farewell to his disciples and returns to his Father in heaven. He does so, not to abandon his friends but to lead the way to our true homeland with him in heaven. This world is passing.

At this time, we are also encouraged to renew our commitment to working for the organic **unity of all Christian peoples**. The divisions that have grown up in the family of God are a scandal for which we all must repent. Jesus' great desire is that we should be one, as he and the Father are one (John 17:21). Great progress has been made in the dialogue between the denominations, but there is still much to be done.

As well at this time of the year, we recall the teaching of Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical **Laudato Si'**. It focuses on care for the natural environment and all people, as well as broader questions of the relationship between God, humans and the Earth. Watch **"The Letter: A Message for Our Earth"** video on Pope Francis, the Environmental Crisis and Frontline Leaders: <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

The Holy Father calls for an integral ecology which understands that exploitation of both people and resources are the fundamental cause of the ecological crisis we are facing.

As we prepare for a joyful celebration of the Feast of Pentecost next Sunday, the conclusion of the season of Eastertide, let us renew our commitment to seeking deeper unity with all our brothers and sisters, with the wondrous world which has been given to us on loan and with God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. After all, our true homeland is in heaven. Only when we work together under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will God's great dream for us all come to full expression. We have work to do.

Father Simon Eccleton
Cathedral Administrator



Our Parish Mission is underway with the daily Novena having started on Friday evening.

Join us this week as we journey to Pentecost Sunday.

Tuesday evening 7pm in the Church – St Clare of Assisi from the Beatitudes Community will speak on 'Who is The Holy Spirit'.

Wednesday evening 6pm Aldersgate – Parish Dinner (Koha of what you can afford) – This is the final chance to register for the dinner. Please use the sign-up form in the Narthex.

Thursday 7pm in the Church – Father Simon will speak on 'the Holy Spirit and all things Catholic'.

Friday 7pm in the Church – Amazing Grace – Reconciliation and Praise and Worship

Saturday 7am – 5pm in the Assisi Lounge – All Day Adoration – Sign up for an hour on the clipboards in the Narthex or simply drop in for an hour of prayer throughout the day.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish website

www.catholiccathedralchch.org.nz

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm

Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
4:30pm and 6:00pm

Te Rangimarie Centre

11:00am (Miha Māori)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Friday

7:30am

9:15am, 12:05pm

Saturday 9:15am

Public Holidays

9:15am

RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday 11:30am

Saturday 9:45am

PRESBYTERY

03 377 5610

BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH

Bishop Michael Gielen

CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Simon Eccleton

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ASSISTANT PRIESTS

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Office Hours

Monday – Closed

Tues – Fri 8:30am – 12:30pm

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Cathie Hurdle

Readings for the Day

Acts 1: 1-11; 1 Ephesians 1: 17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

Psalm Response

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for the Lord

Mass offered for James Halligan (recent), Dino Veronese, Albina Jamodiong and Ted Quinn (anniversary); Special intention (1)

SVDP Cathedral Parish fed 153 people in the past week. The pantry needs the following food items: pasta, tinned spaghetti, tinned soup, toilet paper and cakes of soap. You can donate financially to our SVDP by using the envelopes available in the Narthex & side porch – or directly into their bank account 03 1700 0027831 00.



Confirmation Programme for year 8 up. For more information about Confirmation please contact Clare cbell@cathedralparish.nz. Please touch base asap so we can get everyone registered. The programme will begin with a youth camp on Friday 30th June–2nd July run by the Catholic Youth Team at Woodend Christian camp. If you are an adult and have not been confirmed, please touch base with Fr Monty who will be preparing a group of adults to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday 17th September at 4:30pm.

Small Group Opportunities

Small groups are an excellent way for parishioners to get to know others better and to be supported in things of faith. We have a few opportunities on offer:

Coffee, Cake and Christ at Wayne and Sue McTague's home, looking at a teaching series called "Wild Goose" from our Catholic platform FORMED with sharing and discussion to follow. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, June 7th till November 15th 7-8:30pm. For more information contact Wayne on waynemctague@hotmail.com

'Gazing on the Gospels' a daytime group at Carole Holoman's home; a 10-week study looking at the 'Our Father', with opportunity for discussion, sharing and prayer, over soup and buns. Weekly beginning the first week of June, 11:30pm-1pm on either Wednesday or Thursday, depending on interest. Please contact Kirsten Challies to register interest.

Mums Love Coffee group: An opportunity for like-minded young mothers to come together, make connections and to get support as they nourish the children God has put in their care. Wednesdays 10:15-11:30am in the Assisi Lounge, beginning June 7th. Please contact Clare Bell for further info.

Draw Near A time of prayer and worship together, followed by small group discussion over soup and buns, in the Assisi Lounge. Starts again from 6th June, Tuesday evenings 5:30-6:30pm, during the school term.

Open Day -Villa Maria College Villa Maria College is a state integrated Catholic Girls schools for Years 7-13. They are holding an Open Day on Tuesday 23 May, from 9am – 3pm. Principal Deborah Brosnahan and our student leaders will address visitors in the Auditorium at the following times: 9am and 1pm for Year 9 intake and 11am for Year 7 intake. 21 Peer St, Christchurch Ph: 348 4165 www.villa.school.nz

Villa Maria College & Baradene College [Auckland] combined Choirs will lead the music at Saturday 27th May at 5:30pm in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. This will be followed by a concert from 7:00-8:00pm. All welcome. Please support this event.

St Vincent De Paul volunteers needed – for the Vinnies shop in Stanmore Road Richmond. If you can help out for 1 x 3hour morning shift or 1 x 3 hour afternoon shift, in the shop or out the back in the sorting room please phone 033897484 ask for Anna.

Pilgrimage to the holy land Fr Chris Friel from Timaru will lead a 12-day tour to some of the most important Christian and historical sites in Israel and Jordan, beginning in Amman on April 9 and concluding in Jerusalem on April 20th 2024. During this amazing tour you will enjoy comfortable accommodation, great food, as well as experiencing the rich cultural and religious history of this region. For full itinerary and details please contact Peter Fleming at Pilgrimage Tours in Auckland at: www.thetravelwarehouse.co.nz Ph. 0800 356728.

The latest issue in your church Sunday May 21



The Catholic Church in New Zealand has a strong focus on implementing safeguarding guidelines and these apply to all parishes and faith communities. This is a national initiative and here at The Cathedral Parish we are having been working hard to ensure all expectations are understood and in place. A safeguarding culture across all aspects of parish life, is everyone's responsibility, so today we have attached a safeguarding update (Safeguarding in the Pews) which we encourage you to have a read. Queries or feedback to our local safeguarding representatives Kirsten Tester or Maurice Lawlor. For more information go to the safeguarding website for the Christchurch Diocese, Parishes, and communities www.cdocsafeguarding.nz



What is Safeguarding?

Why do I need to know about it, I am not a volunteer in my parish?

Our parish has been working hard to ensure that The Church's safeguarding programme raises awareness of our collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This commitment extends to all who are Church volunteers, ministers, and worshippers within our parish and all catholic entities in the diocese of Christchurch

Together we are creating a "Culture of Safeguarding" and have clear processes and procedures in safeguarding best practice. Our priests, religious, leaders and volunteers are committed to a culture of safeguarding.

You may not be a volunteer in our parish, but did you know?

- *We have a safeguarding representative. (Please refer to the purple poster in our church for contact details and to read your parish safeguarding commitments.)*
- *Most volunteers in our parish have already attended at least one safeguarding workshop.*
- *Most volunteers in our parish have signed a Code of Conduct and a Volunteer Agreement.*
- *Volunteers in ministries that involve working with children or vulnerable adults are required to be police vetted.*
- *There is a Church National Safeguarding Policy and National Safeguarding Guidelines.*
- *The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) oversees the Church's safeguarding policies and practices and responds to complaints of abuse within the Church.*
- *Most priests, religious and lay leaders in our parish have already completed further in-depth safeguarding training, SCCANZ (Safeguarding in the*

Catholic Church Aotearoa New Zealand) developed by The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) and Te Kupenga - The Catholic Institute.

In developing an extended culture of guardianship, our goal is to provide a safe environment for all people with a particular focus on children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding incorporates three main strategies:

- *Safe recruitment and selection practices - helping to prevent those who pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults from holding positions of trust.*
- *Code of Conduct - having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable behaviour, is an essential part of keeping members of the parish community safe.*
- *Safe activities - ensuring a safe environment for all activities for all people. Safeguarding calls each of us to act so that we are showing care for each other. In sharing this responsibility, we all create a community of safety and security.*

Safeguarding in our parishes and communities is an important and precious outworking of God's love for the vulnerable. It is a healthy expression of our love for our neighbour. We all want and need communities where the vulnerable, (and we can all be vulnerable), are safe and secure. In loving parishes, our faith must surely flourish.



Safeguarding Prayer - St Joseph – Protector

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph.

Blessed Joseph, as in your day, the protection and safeguarding of children and the vulnerable is an integral part of the life and ministry of the Catholic Church.

Grant us strength, wisdom, and courage to carry out our ministries as we seek to make the church a safer place for the young and vulnerable, so that we can create a more just and loving community.

Guide us to follow in your footsteps as we build a culture of safeguarding. Help us to listen to those wounded by abuse and help us to act with "compassion and justice".

Help us to serve humbly and faithfully, and to love one another as Your Son has loved us.

St Joseph, protector of the innocent, Pray for us.

Amen