

### This Weeks Sunday Readings:

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:8-11; John11:1-45

# In today's gospel Thomas makes a shocking statement. When Jesus determines he will go to Bethany, Thomas says to the other disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." Though this might sound a little melodramatic, Thomas and the other disciples had reason to believe that their association with Jesus could ultimately end in their own violent deaths.

# Since Jesus barely escaped lynching by an angry mob on his last visit to Jerusalem, it seems foolhardy to return again. In today's gospel, Jesus enters Bethany, which we are told is "near Jerusalem," where he very publicly raises his friend Lazarus from death to life. This remarkable sign of Jesus' authority over everything, including death, leads directly to plans for his crucifixion by the chief priests and Pharisees.

# Within today's gospel we find life that is stronger than death, and a foreshadowing of the triumph over death that will happen in Jesus' resurrection. But the only way to this newness of life is through death and for all of their good intentions, when the religious leaders and crowds do finally carry out their plans to execute Jesus, every one of the Twelve, save the beloved disciple, are nowhere to be found. Discipleship requires this willingness to follow Jesus, even unto death (whether it be one of the many little deaths that make up a life, or the final and complete gift of self in the footsteps of the martyrs). Each Lent we trace Jesus' footsteps from the temptation in the desert and the beginning of his public ministry to his last breaths on the cross. Each year we say with Thomas, "Let us also go to die with him," for only in sharing this death do we arrive at the joy of Easter morning.



### Next Weeks Sunday Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27, 66

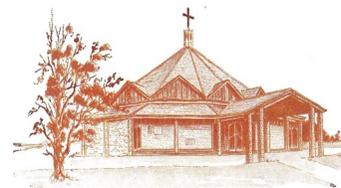
**May God bless and reward you for your Christian charity and generosity. Please remember the Parish in your WILL**

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**PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE**

**We still need your assistance to keep the Parish running. Below is the Parish bank account number for internet payments which are greatly appreciated.**

**02-0100-0120958-14**



# Northern Wairoa Catholic Parish

*Sacred Heart - St. Mary's - St. Agnes - St. Pius X*

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Bishop Patrick Dunn has posted another bulletin updating us regarding COVID-19.

The full bulletin is on the Auckland Catholic Diocese Website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>

Below are a few points:

- All Catholic churches in the Diocese of Auckland should close prior to 11.30pm on Wednesday 25 March until further notice. Mass will not be celebrated publicly, nor will there be other celebrations such as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation should not be celebrated until further notice, except in danger of death.
- Baptisms and weddings should be delayed if at all possible. If these celebrations need to proceed at all, attendance should be strictly limited to immediate family members, with the physical distancing rule of 2 metres observed in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines.
- The Ministry of Health stipulates:

Weddings, funerals/tangi, birthday parties and other gatherings.

Any place the public congregates must close. Any event which includes public congregation must be cancelled. This will apply for the next four weeks from 23 March 2020.

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**25 March 2020**

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Simone Ah Lo

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**CLOSED UNTIL**  
**FURTHER NOTICE**

**St. Mary's Ruawai**  
**CLOSED UNTIL**  
**FURTHER NOTICE**

**St. Agnes Kaihu**  
**CLOSED UNTIL**  
**FURTHER NOTICE**

**Parish Council Chairman**  
Kieran Gilmour 4397635  
**Parish Coordinator**  
Fr Simone Ah Lo

**SUNDAY MASSES**



**WEEKDAY MASSES**



*Continued from front page*

- First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion should be postponed until the pandemic is over.
- All public funerals are cancelled. Funerals must be a private event strictly limited to immediate family members and in line with Ministry of Health guidelines around size and physical distancing. Follow the guidance of the Funeral Director who is well-briefed by the Ministry.
- Anointing of the Sick: anoint only those who are seriously ill.
- You cannot dispense Holy Communion personally to individuals and, for those who have chapels in their parishes/religious houses, you cannot allow anyone in from outside but will have to act as a “closed community” until such time as the restrictions are lifted.
- There can be no parish outreach activity during this time and all parish events, both outdoor and indoor, should be cancelled (eg Good Friday Stations of the Cross etc.).
- Each weekday morning at 7.00am a recording of Mass will be posted on the Diocesan website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>.
- Where you are living in a household together, I encourage you to participate in the Easter liturgies as you can, taking into account the limitations we are currently living under.
- Last, but by no means least, I urge you to take care of yourselves and each other. Remember your own self-care and health during this time.

Above all, know that you are in my prayers daily.

+ Patrick Dunn  
Bishop of Auckland

**‘Anointing of the Sick’** (for the seriously ill)  
**‘Holy Water’**

Fr Simone can be contacted regarding this sacrament and collecting Holy Water. Please phone him on 09-439 6370

We are family and need to stay in contact with each other.  
Please feel free to contact me any time Kieran Gilmour  
0274581271.

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.

### **CORONAVIRUS PRAYER**

God our Father, we ask your protection against the Coronavirus that has claimed lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of the medical experts to minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and guide Government and private agencies to find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted.

May they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

I ask for your special providence and protection for our country, my family and my friends. Please send your Holy Spirit to protect us from this virus. And may Mary, Our Blessed Mother, place over us her mantle of protection. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.