



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH

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Sunday 21 April 2024 – Fourth Sunday Of Easter

Readings: Acts 4:8-12; Psalm 118; 1John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings in the name of the risen Saviour and welcome to the Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season.

Jesus as the Good Shepherd reminds his followers to be wary of the many voices that call out for allegiance.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. The Son, the cornerstone, was rejected by those who presumed to build. But I want to recognize Jesus as the cornerstone of my life. I invested my lifetime to him, so that I can look forward to being one with him and seeing him as he really is.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, Bishop Steve Lowe is calling the whole Diocese of Auckland to continue to pray for more vocations in the Church, especially priesthood and religious life. He also asks us to support our seminarians who are searching for their vocations in the Seminary, by giving kindly towards their education. May Jesus the Good Shepherd, continue to form and inspire us to be good shepherds. Have a safe weekend and be kind. Easter Season Blessings

Fr. Simone Ah Lo sm.

REFLECTION

Safe in God's Hand.

Safety is a matter of serious national concern. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency are some of the agencies that have been set up to cope with the attacks on our national security. We want to guarantee our safety and protection from any evil or dangerous forces.

It is naive to suppose that our problems are only physical and external. Psychiatrists and philosophers try to address significant life questions such as: What does life mean? What is the real purpose of living? Who am I? What happens after death? What is good or evil?

Salvation, a word often used in the Bible, refers to the state of spiritual well-being. It stands for something presently existing, yet not completely possessed—a gift that cannot be earned, yet something that has to be worked at. It means restoring and upholding a relationship with God that men and women relinquished at the beginning of time. It is the only safe place to be.

The resurrection instilled within the apostles and first believers the conviction that life and death had purpose behind them, for good or for evil. Peter's bold and courageous words on Pentecost revealed his new understanding that this life made sense and even led to a greater, more glorious adventure to come.

In the name of the risen Saviour, Peter also performed miraculous healings. He restored one crippled to perfect faith. A wonderful new power was at work in him and in all who would believe. Jesus, once rejected by men and women, was now alive, triumphing over the grave and reigning forever. His children had nothing to fear from the world any longer. They might share in his suffering for a little while, but they would also share in his eternal glory in the age to come. Now and in the future, they know that they were safe in the hands of God.

Christianity holds many paradoxes. Jesus did more for his sheep by dying for them than by remaining alive. The door to salvation was thrown open to welcome all nations and people and tribes. Salvation is for all who hear and faithfully follow the voice and the Good Shepherd. He promises, in return, to care for and protect his flock. The safest place to be is in the will of the Lord.

Richard T. A. Murphy, O. P.

The Parish Rosary Intention for April is for: Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and all Religious

MASS TIMES for the week of 23rd to the 28th April 2024

Tuesday	23 rd April:	Church Open for Prayer
Wednesday	24 th April: Mass	5.30pm
Thursday	25 th April: Mass	9.00am ANZAC DAY
Friday	26 th April:	10.00am Holy Hour, Reconciliation, Benediction
	Mass	11.00am
Saturday	27 th April: Mass	5.30pm Dargaville
Sunday	28 th April: Mass	9.30am

MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 27th and 28th of April

PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD

Saturday: 5.30pm – N McCarthy, P Witten

Sunday: 9.30am – Tongan Community

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday: 9.30am – E Perreau

GIFTS and COLLECTION BASKET

Sunday: 9.30am – Tongan Community

MORNING TEA - Come over for a cuppa and get to know your fellow parishioners. All welcome

Sunday: – Tongan Community

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND DYING

Recent Deaths:

Death Anniversary: Marilyn Juretech, Anne Jeffery, John Hansen

Sick: Manolita Peralta, Liz Dennis, Ray Balcombe, Marie Hopkinson, Jean O'Neill, Louise Casford



ANZAC DAY THURSDAY 25TH APRIL: Mass 9.am. No Mass at 5.30pm

Sacramental Programme: If you would like your child/children to take part in this programme please fill out the form in the below link. Any children 8years and up are welcome to participate in the programme.

Programme will start week 2 of term 2. Wednesday 8th May 3:30 - 6pm (including Mass)

<https://forms.gle/gLF7wYTvZQp8F6VB6>

Today is **Vocations Sunday**. Bishop Steve Lowe asks us to support our seminarians studying towards their priestly vocations at Holy Cross Seminary. Your contribution will positively influence the future of the Church here in Auckland. Donate at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/donate. Please continue to pray for our seminarians.

Dargaville Combined Churches Foodbank Volunteers needed - if there is someone who could help **once a week for 2 hours 12.45am to 2.30ish pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**. Please be in touch with Fiona on 0204911584 or Margaret 439 5142.

If anybody would like a tax receipt for donations - email wjhagoort@gmail.com or alternatively text me details on my mobile number which is *Sjannette 021 023 76697*

Dargaville Combined Churches Food Bank AGM on Monday 29th April 2024, 4.00pm at the Methodist Church Complex.

NZ Catholic: Some headlines for this issue: Call to reduce pressure on costs for integrated schools. Gaza solidarity pilgrimage in Wellington. Universal safeguarding framework published. Feeling at home in a Christian 'ethos'.

The Fifth Gospel Project Father John O'Connor's Food For Faith forum is collecting and collating for publication stories of personal experience of God. Send an experience (up to 400 words - before the end of April) by email to john@fff.org.nz More information on this <https://foodforfaith.org.nz/2024/03/telling-the-story/>

Relics Tour From 26 April to 5 May there is a unique and historic opportunity to welcome the relics of saints from both the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches. This promises to be a spiritually enriching experience. More details: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/calendar/

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women, is celebrating 40years of ministry to the women of New Zealand. There are celebration days planned in North Shore, Hamilton and Nelson. For information on these, as well as sharing of memories, testimonies and our current vision, please check out our website: www.dove.org.nz or look for us on Facebook.