

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Third Sunday of Easter 10 April 2016

just one thing...

My favourite Easter painting is by the Swiss artist Eugene Burnand who died in 1921 and with whom I share a birth-date. In one of his best known works we see Peter and John running to the tomb of Jesus on the morning of the resurrection. It is evident in the face on their faces that they have one thing on their mind.

Most of us, much of the time, feel as though we have a hundred things on our minds. Priests are not exempt from this burden. Our lives are filled with the occupations of the day, our guilt about what we didn't get around to doing yesterday, and our anxiety about tomorrow.

Every now and then something breaks into our lives that becomes, even for a moment, the ONE THING.

Too often this is a sadness on hearing tragic news about someone we love, or a pressing anxiety that wakes us at 2.00am when we are desperate for sleep.

But we have all had the experience too of moments and even days when one wonderful experience filled our thoughts. You might remember the time when you first fell in love, or the birth of a child. These moments also have the power to fill our lives with purpose and peace. Remarkably in the midst of these positive pre-occupations, the other things that we have to do also get done, and we have energy for everything including the ability to speak positively to the people who have caused us pain.

For the Christian the reality of the resurrection of Jesus has transformed every moment of every day and every night. The great fear of death (in all its daily forms) has been overtaken by resurrection "creating for all of us a new space of life, a new space of being in union with God."

The only way in which we can live as people of the resurrection is with a constant and vibrant awareness that (unless we choose otherwise), we are in union with God. For the Christian, this is the one thing that gives meaning to all the other things that take our daily time and energy. None of the other things, not our families, friends, work or projects can be the ONE thing without diminishing or excluding the other things. But when we choose as our "ONE THING" to live in relationship with Jesus who is living with and for us, all the other things fall into right perspective and each task gets done and every responsibility is fulfilled - all possible because we have chosen God as our ONE THING.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict invites: He is alive, Let us entrust ourselves to him, knowing that we are on the right path." *J.O.C*



the Nature of Jesus Resurrection and its Historical Significance.

(an excerpt from *Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Emeritus Benedict pp 272ff)

"...what was it like to encounter the risen Lord, The following distinctions are important:

- Jesus did not simply return to normal biological life as one who, by the laws of biology, would eventually have to die again.
- Jesus is not a ghost ("spirit"). In other words, he does not belong to the realm of the dead but is somehow able to reveal himself in the realm of the living.
- Nevertheless, the encounters with the risen Lord are not the same as mystical experiences, in which the human spirit is momentarily drawn aloft out of itself and perceives the realm of the divine and eternal, only to return then to the normal horizon of its existence. Mystical experience is a temporary removal of the soul's spatial and cognitive limitations, But it is not an encounter with a person coming towards me from without, Saint Paul clearly distinguished his mystical experiences, such as his elevation to the third heaven described in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, from his encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus, which was a historical event - an encounter with a living person.

On the basis of all this biblical evidence, what are we now in a position to say about the true nature of Christ's Resurrection?

It is a historical event that nevertheless bursts open the dimensions of history and transcends it...Essential, then, is the fact that Jesus'

individual coming back to life at a certain point, but that an ontological leap occurred, one that touches being as such, opening up a dimension that affects us all, creating for all of us a new space of life, a new space of being in union with God...

...It is part of the mystery of God that he acts so gently, that he only gradually builds up his history within the great history of mankind; that he becomes human and so can be overlooked by his contemporaries and by the decisive forces within history; that he suffers and dies and that, having risen again, he chooses to come to mankind only through the faith of the disciples to whom he reveals himself; that he continues to knock gently at the doors of our hearts and slowly opens our eyes if we open our doors to him. And yet - is not this the truly divine way? Not to overwhelm with external power, but to give freedom, to offer and elicit love. And if we really think about it, is it not what seems so small that is truly great? Does not a ray of light issue from Jesus, growing brighter across the centuries, that could not come from any mere human and through which the light of God truly shines into the world? Could the apostolic preaching have found faith and built up a worldwide community unless the power of truth had been at work within it?

If we attend to the witnesses with listening hearts and open ourselves to the signs by which the Lord again and again authenticates both them and himself, then we know that he is truly risen. He is alive, Let us entrust ourselves to him, knowing that we are on the right path, With Thomas let us place our hands into Jesus' pierced side and confess: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28)

MEN'S GATHERING 13 APRIL 2016 hosted by JOSHUA FELLOWSHIP 7.15 pm Wednesday, 10th April 2016, St Gregory's Parish Centre, Cotswold Road, Bishopdale. Come and join like-minded Catholic men to grow your faith and be encouraged in your walk with the Lord. Faith sharing, praise and worship, prayer and fellowship over a cuppa. This month we have Pat Barrett speaking on "The importance of the Divine Mercy message in the Year of Mercy". More information? Phone Chris on 027-646-4138.

THINKING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD? Speak to any priest or contact Vocations Director Fr. John O'Connor vocations.chch@gmail.com

Interested in returning home to the Catholic Church? Catholics Returning Home, a four-week programme for non-practising Catholics interested in renewing their life in the Church starts soon. It will run from early May until early June at 7.00pm at the following locations: Sundays at Waimakariri Parish, Mondays at Timaru Parish, Wednesdays at Papanui Parish. You are most welcome to join us. For more details phone 0508 HOME NOW [0508 466 366] or visit www.catholicshomenow.co.nz

Hours of mercy - Jesus youth initiative In the light of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the Jesus Youth movement is initiating 50 days of Eucharistic Adoration across New Zealand from Easter till Pentecost. Jesus youth Christchurch is hosting "Hours of mercy" for 7 Saturdays. When:- April 2nd till may 14th (Saturdays only) 8am to 8pm Where:- St Teresa of Lisieux Parish, Riccarton Sign Up Online at www.hoursofmercy.org.nz or contact 022 693 6195 Do try to find some time with Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord through the "Hours of Mercy" initiative."

Pro-Life Facts The Right to Life Annual General Meeting will be held in Christchurch on Wednesday the 13th of April at 7:30 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Centre, 90 Greers Rd, Christchurch. This year, Jane Goodwin, who is the Advanced Care Facilitator at the Canterbury District Health Board and is opposed to euthanasia, will be the guest speaker. Members and supporters welcome. For more info on pro-life issues, visit www.righttolife.org.nz.

Event: Antioch Camp Date: 15th – 17th April Venue: YMCA Wainui Camp Antioch is an annual Camp run by CYT for Yrs. 11-13. An opportunity for young people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ with inspiring talks, testimonies, games, small groups, opportunity to celebrate the sacraments, praise and worship and MORE. Online Registration <http://www.cyt.org.nz>. Cost \$85 per person. Contact Sinead at CYT

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Let us continue to pray for the happy repose of the soul of Bishop Barry Jones, and pray too that all those involved in the process of appointing his successor will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

CYT Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016 Join us for an unforgettable experience of Pilgrimage to WYD 2016 in Krakow, Poland. Includes visits to Rome, Paris, Assisi, Lourdes & Warsaw. Register at <http://www.cyt.org.nz/wyd16> or call Tim 022 3834508 for more info.

WYD in Christchurch Dear parishioners, on July 29th to August 2nd Catholic Cathedral and Marian Colleges are hosting a Companion event to the World Youth Day in Krakow for the Secondary School Colleges in the South Island. We are anticipating 240 students of Catholic Colleges will attend this event that includes Pilgrimage, Service, Catechesis and Worship. This is a unique opportunity for the Youth (16-18years) of our Catholic communities to come together and share their faith experiences. Please keep these students in your prayer as they are preparing themselves for this journey. As we move closer to this event, we will be asking for donations to ensure that costs are reduced for families and no one is excluded from participating. To keep up what's happening see our Facebook page: World Youth Day 2016.

The Liturgical Year an 18 hour 9am-4pm course from Monday 18 April to Wednesday 20th at The Catholic Education Office, Barbadoes Street, CHCH. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci for more information..

Year of Mercy New Zealand Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/YearofmercyNZ/> **Mercy** – the gift and sign of God's presence among us. Tell us what is happening in your place and be inspired by the ways in which others experience this gift and share it among us.

Introduction to Catholicism An 18 hour three day course Friday 22 April, Tuesday 26 April, Wednesday 27 April 9am-4pm at The Catholic Education Office, Barbadoes Street, CHCH. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci for more information.

Introduction to the Old Testament An 18 hour 6 session course Tuesdays 3, 10,17,24,31 May and 7 June from 6pm-9pm at The Catholic Education Office, Barbadoes Street, CHCH. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci for more information.

RCIA- Right of Christian Initiation for Adults An 18 hour 6 session course Thursdays 5,12,19,26 May and 2, 9 June at 5.30pm-8.30pm at The Catholic Education Office, Barbadoes Street, CHCH. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci for more information.

Introduction to Catholic Youth Ministry An 18 hour course starts Thursday 21 April-Saturday 23 April 9am-4pm at The Catholic Education Office, Barbadoes Street, CHCH. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci for more information.

PARISH COUNCIL. Please keep the members of the Council in your prayer as they meet on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm at Hanmer.

PARISH FORMATION DAY - Saturday 23 April, 10.00am - 3.00pm. Community of the Beatitudes, 67 Leithfield Road. Given the necessary focus on the architecture of new church buildings to be constructed in our diocese after the devastation wrought by the earthquakes, it is timely to remember that the architecture of a Catholic church building is but one essential element of the seamless garment that is the architecture of the life of a Catholic parish. This day, led by Fr. John, is for any person who seeks to appreciate the seamless garment that is the life of a Catholic parish. Indicate your attendance to catholicurunui@gmail.com or 03 319 8730

FORMING FAITH TOGETHER In recent months since I began to send video clips and reflections to parishioners in the weekly newsletter email, a number of parishioners have commented that they have found these helpful. One of the disadvantages of living in a rural area is that there are fewer opportunities for on-going formation of parishioners. I don't want to clog the inboxes of all parishioners with unsolicited formation material, and therefore propose to send (perhaps two or three times each week) reflections, videos, links etc to **anyone who indicates their desire to receive this material.** Simply send your email address to catholicurunui@gmail.com I propose using a Facebook page to enable an interactive process where your discussion, comments questions etc can easily be shared with this new FORMING FAITH TOGETHER group.

LADIES LUNCH get together. All catholic ladies and their non-catholic lady family members including preschool children are warmly invited to the home of Anne Murphy, 11 Leslie St, Culverden township on Wednesday, 13th April at 12 noon. Please bring a small plate of food. Any queries Anne 3158489.

LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE. If you did not receive a brochure from the parish office in the mail in recent weeks, this means you are not on our parish roll. Having your name on the roll is important for many reasons, including sacramental preparation, visitation etc. If you are not on the roll please send your name, address etc to Sarah at catholicurunui@gmail.com or 03 319 8730

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION Every three years each parish renews the list of those who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for the parish. I invite you to recommend to me the names of those who you consider suitable to serve in this important ministry. Let me know names before Sunday 10 April. Thank you. Fr. John

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYER all parishioners and friends of the parish who are suffering ill health.



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