

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch

Fourth Sunday of Easter 17 April 2016

The Challenge of Crises

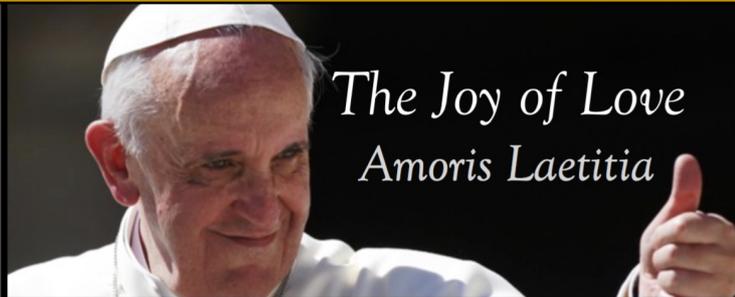
From Pope Francis exhortation

The Joy of Love

The life of every family is marked by all kinds of crises, yet these are also part of its dramatic beauty. Couples should be helped to realize that surmounting a crisis need not weaken their relationship; instead, it can improve, settle and mature the wine of their union. Life together should not diminish but increase their contentment; every new step along the way can help couples find new ways to happiness. Each crisis becomes an apprenticeship in growing closer together or learning a little more about what it means to be married. There is no need for couples to resign themselves to an inevitable downward spiral or a tolerable mediocrity. On the contrary, when marriage is seen as a challenge that involves overcoming obstacles, each crisis becomes an opportunity to let the wine of their relationship age and improve. Couples will gain from receiving help in facing crises, meeting challenges and acknowledging them as part of family life. Experienced and trained couples should be open to offering guidance, so the couples will not be unnerved by these crises or tempted to hasty decisions. Each crisis has a lesson to teach us; we need to learn how to listen for it with the ear of the heart.

Faced with a crisis, we tend first to react defensively, since we feel that we are losing control, or are somehow at fault, and this makes us uneasy. We resort to denying the problem, hiding or downplaying it, and hoping that it will go away. But this does not help; it only makes things worse, wastes energy and delays a solution. Couples grow apart and lose their ability to communicate. When problems are not dealt with, communication is the first thing to go. Little by little, the "the person I love" slowly becomes "my mate", then just "the father or mother of my children", and finally a stranger.

Crises need to be faced together. This is hard, since persons sometimes withdraw in order to avoid saying what they feel; they retreat into a craven silence. At these times, it becomes all the more important to create opportunities for speaking heart to heart. Unless a couple learns to do this, they will find it harder and harder as time passes. Communication is an art learned in moments of peace in order to be practised in moments of difficulty. Spouses need help in discovering their deepest thoughts and feelings and expressing them. Like childbirth, this is a painful process that brings forth a new treasure. The answers given to the pre-synodal consultation showed that most people in



The Joy of Love Amoris Laetitia

a day of study & reflection led by Fr. John O'Connor, focussing on the rich content of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of Love."

When:
Where:
Bring:

Saturday 23 April 2016, 10.30am - 3.00pm
Community of the Beatitudes, 67 Leithfield Road
your own lunch, a friend or two, and a curiosity about the joy of love. All welcome.

Register:

It would be helpful if you could let us know if you intend to attend catholichurunui@gmail.com 03 319 8730

difficult or critical situations do not seek pastoral assistance, since they do not find it sympathetic, realistic or concerned for individual cases. This should spur us to try to approach marriage crises with greater sensitivity to their burden of hurt and anxiety.

Some crises are typical of almost every marriage. Newly married couples need to learn how to accept their differences and to disengage from their parents. The arrival of a child presents new emotional challenges. Raising small children necessitates a change of lifestyle, while the onset of adolescence causes strain, frustration and even tension between parents. An "empty nest" obliges a couple to redefine their relationship, while the need to care for aging parents involves making difficult decisions in their regard. All these are demanding situations that can cause apprehension, feelings of guilt, depression and fatigue, with serious repercussions on a marriage.

Then there are those personal crises that affect the life of couples, often involving finances, problems in the workplace, emotional, social and spiritual difficulties. Unexpected situations present themselves, disrupting family life and requiring a process of forgiveness and reconciliation. In resolving sincerely to forgive the other, each has to ask quietly and humbly if he or she has not somehow created the conditions that led to the other's mistakes. Some families break up when spouses engage in mutual recrimination, but "experience shows that with proper assistance and acts of reconciliation, through grace, a great percentage of troubled marriages find a solution in a satisfying manner.

To know how to forgive and to feel forgiven is a basic experience in family life". "The arduous art of reconciliation, which requires the support of grace needs the generous co-operation of relatives and friends, and some-

times even outside help and professional assistance". It is becoming more and more common to think that, when one or both partners no longer feel fulfilled, or things have not turned out the way they wanted, sufficient reason exists to end the marriage. Were this the case, no marriage would last. At times, all it takes to decide that everything is over is a single instance of dissatisfaction, the absence of the other when he or she was most needed, wounded pride, or a vague fear. Inevitably, situations will arise involving human weakness and these can prove emotionally overwhelming. One spouse may not feel fully appreciated,

or may be attracted to another person. Jealousy and tensions may emerge, or new interests that consume the other's time and attention. Physical changes naturally occur in everyone. These, and so many other things, rather than threatening love, are so many occasions for reviving and renewing it. 238. In such situations, some have the maturity needed to reaffirm their choice of the other as their partner on life's journey, despite the limitations of the relationship. They realistically accept that the other cannot fulfil all their cherished dreams. Persons like this avoid thinking of themselves as martyrs; they make the most of whatever possibilities family life gives them and they work patiently at strengthening the marriage bond. They realize, after all, that every crisis can be a new "yes", enabling love to be renewed, deepened and inwardly strengthened. When crises come, they are unafraid to get to the root of it, to renegotiate basic terms, to achieve a new equilibrium and to move forward together. With this kind of constant openness they are able to face any number of difficult situations. In any event, while realizing that reconciliation is a possibility, we also see that "what is urgently needed today is a ministry to care for those whose marital relationship has broken down."

par 232-238, *Amoris Laetitia*



A dozen ladies of the parish lunched at Culverden during the week. A great initiative. One participant commented "Everyone seemed to enjoy being together. There was plenty of chat and a few laughs too. It was good getting to meet people that I hadn't met before." Time for a similar initiative for men of the parish?

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

The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia) Fr. John O'Connor will offer a study day on Pope Francis' recent exhortation "The Joy of Love." It will be held Saturday 23 April, 10.30am - 3.00pm at the Community of the Beatitudes, 67 Leithfield Road. BYO lunch. All are welcome. For more info, and to let us know if intend to attend contact vocations.chch@gmail.com or 03 319 8730.

Find us on Facebook Keep up to date with what is happening in the Diocese. Search 'Catholic Diocese of Christchurch'

Thinking Diocesan Priesthood? Speak to any priest or contact Vocations Director Fr. John O'Connor vocations.chch@gmail.com



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.

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.

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 www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci

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 visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci

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 www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci

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, Contact Wendy WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci

Young Adults Interfaith Basketball Saturday 30 April, 10:30am. LDS Centre, 25 Fendalton Avenue, Christchurch. Come along for a casual throw around. Do you enjoy playing basketball and want to join us for a casual get together to play some ball? We are aiming the event at young adults, roughly 16 - 35 however there are no strict age limits, so young and young at heart, please come along! Enquires Matthew Gardner 027318 9527 www.canterburyinterfaith.org.nz

Sunday Mass Time Changes

The first responsibility of a parish priest is to ensure that the Mass and other sacraments are available to all parishioners. In a rural parish with several churches this is a unique challenge. However with the help of parishioners' suggestions, the Parish Council has approved this new Sunday Mass timetable which begins the first weekend in May.

It is the presence of a second priest in the parish which makes the extra Masses (Culverden & Cheviot) possible. Unfortunately some of the Mass times requested by parishioners are not possible - for example a 9am Mass would prevent the celebration of an 8am in another part of the parish. This new timetable gives Culverden parishioners a 10am Mass each month, as well as an extra Sunday evening Mass which is ideal for the Filipino community - although this will be at 6.00pm instead of 7. Cheviot (which is almost an hour from the nearest alternative Sunday Mass) will now have a 10am Mass every Sunday.

This new timetable ensures that every parishioner has access to a Sunday Mass every Sunday at or within half an hour of their nearest church.

Amberley every Sunday 8.00am
Cheviot, every Sunday 10.00am
Culverden 1st Sunday 6.00pm, 3rd Sun 10.00am, 4th Sunday 6.00pm, 5th Sunday, (Saturday Vigil) 6.30pm,
Hanmer Springs every Saturday 5.00pm
Hawarden 2nd & 4th Sunday 10.00am
Waiau, 2nd Sunday 12 noon

First Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
 Amberley 8.00am
 Cheviot 10.00am
 Culverden 6.00pm

Second Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
 Amberley 8.00am
 Hawarden 10.00am
 Cheviot 10.00am
 Waiau 12noon

Third Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
 Amberley 8.00am
 Cheviot 10.00am
 Culverden 10.00am

Fourth Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
 Amberley 8.00am
 Cheviot 10.00am
 Hawarden 10.00am
 Culverden 6.00pm

Fifth Sunday

Hanmer Springs Vigil (Sat) 5.00pm
 Culverden Vigil (Sat) 6.30pm
 Amberley 8.00am
 Cheviot 10.00am

PARISH FEAST DAY. Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is our parish Feast Day. We will celebrate next Saturday with the recollection day.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY. Good Shepherd Sunday is marked as a day of prayer for Vocations to the priesthood. Let us pray for all New Zealand seminarians, remembering those we met at Cheviot in December as they cycled the length of the country, others at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, and especially Monty of our own Good Shepherd parish.

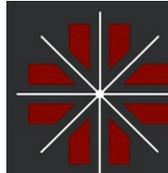
PRESBYTERY COMPLETION. In the next couple of weeks the new Good Shepherd Parish presbytery / offices / carpark will be completed at Amberley. Before the priests move in parishioners are invited to have a look through the project next Saturday 23 April 3.30 - 5.30 and Sunday 24 April 11.30 - 1.30pm. The project will not be fully completed at that stage with a few details (carpet etc) will be sorted in the following week, but it is important that parishioners who have supported the project have the first opportunity to view the project that they have enabled.

PARISH FORMATION DAY - Saturday 23 April, 10.30am - 3.00pm. Community of the Beatitudes, 67 Leithfield Road. Indicate your attendance to catholicurunui@gmail.com or 03 319 8730. See notice on front page for further details.

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.



Find us on
facebook
 Catholic Hurunui



www.foodforfaith.org.nz

read, watch & listen

with Fr. John O'Connor

& on Facebook & Twitter