

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Fourth Sunday in Lent

6 March 2016

coming home

Twice each year I spend a couple of days at the meeting of the Aotearoa New Zealand dialogue of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. This dialogue is made up of half a dozen representatives from each church and our conversations include robust theological dialogue as we together seek unity without short-cuts which would serve only to compromise the doctrinal beauty of each tradition.

There are significant differences between our two faith communities, and it is clear that the pathway to our goal of unity must neither be avoided (by pretending that there are no differences), or abandoned (presuming that the goal of unity has become unattainable and therefore there is no point in passionately perusing the one-ness that we seek and need). The prayer of Jesus remains "that they be one."

At our meeting this week we reflected on Pope Francis' intention in calling this year's Extraordinary Year of Mercy. While the media presents Francis as one who is breaking the church from its past, the reality is more hopeful and complex. I have no doubt that Pope Francis is the one the Holy Spirit has given to guide the Catholic Church on earth at this time. His outgoing style and relaxed relationship with the media are helping to open minds and hearts once again to the beauty of the Catholic faith.

But as one of Pope Francis' biographers reflected a couple of months ago: "*Francis is no doctrinal radical. To date he has not changed a single word of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the official compendium of Church teaching. Every time he's been asked for his personal views on contentious matters such as abortion and homosexuality, he has replied that they're the views of the church because he is a*

"son of the Church." *The Francis Miracle*, John L. Allen 2015

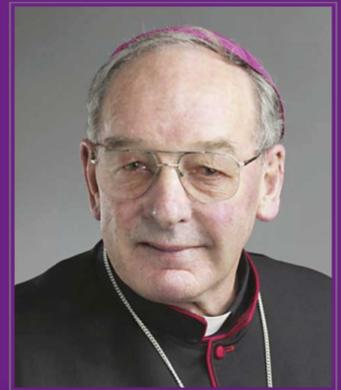
Given that Pope Francis has promoted the reception of Indulgences as an essential component of Holy Year pilgrimages, it is inevitable that our ecumenical gathering discussed this often misunderstood gift that is available to those who pass through a nominated Holy Door in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and who take the opportunity to confess, receive communion and pray for the pope and his intentions. I suspect it is a while since the concept of "indulgences" has been mentioned in a parish newsletter, but given the emphasis of Pope Francis it is timely to clarify this practice. The catechism definition is given at the bottom of this page.

The ball is in our court. The mercy of God is available to us but is not forced on us. This means that while God offers mercy and forgiveness to every person, only those who desire and who receive this embrace are able to be forgiven and reconciled with God and with the community. Humans are slow to accept forgiveness and the sacrament of reconciliation in which God's mercy is given and received is not a magical remedy for the effects of sin. The habit of sin is not a scar in need of cosmetic camouflage but a wound in need of healing. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation God forgives sin completely, however we know from our own experience that within days and even hours we have usually sinned in the same ways once and twice again. This force of habit indicates a deeply ingrained and habitual compulsion towards sin. The process of desiring and receiving renewed freedom helps to heal this inner wound reawakening the divine gift of freedom in us.

This is what we see in today's powerful Gospel reading which tells of the love of the Father. The son, often called the prodigal, realises that his wilful ways have not delivered the happiness he sought. He makes a decision to return home with a prepared speech of remorse, willing to accept the lowest position in the household. Beautifully the gospel account changes direction and tone with the verse "while he was still a long way off, his father, who clearly had not chased him and dragged him home, "caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him..."

Where is the indulgence here? Well it is not difficult to imagine the embarrassment and shame the prodigal felt. While the father was overwhelmingly welcoming, this did not mean that the next few hours and days were easy for the returning son. There was the dispute with his brother who was unhappy at the attention the sinful son was receiving. The family (and especially the prodigal son) had to be helped to experience fully the forgiveness that had been given. The "time out" had become a wound that needed time and love to heal.

As one of the Anglican theologians at our meeting suggested, it's a bit like the child who needs to be helped back into the family after the discipline of "time out."
J.O'C



Bishop Barry Jones DD
29 August 1941 - 13 February 2016
May he rest in peace

MONTH'S MIND MASS

It is the custom to have a Mass one month after the death of a bishop or priest. There will be a Memorial Mass for the repose of the soul of Bishop Barry on Monday 14th March at 7pm at St Mary's Pro Cathedral.

Good Shepherd Parish Weekly Lenten Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

AMBERLEY Fridays 10am - 11am

CULVERDEN Tuesdays 7pm - 8pm

COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES

Thursdays 7.15pm-8.15pm conc. with Compline

& any other church on request.

"Here we can open our hearts to Jesus and allow ourselves to listen to Him."



The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development

We are now in the third week of the Lent Appeal. Your generous donations enable Caritas to reach out to provide support to those in need "so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship & fraternity" (Misericordiae Vultus, paragraph 15).

As part of Caritas Internationalis, the second largest humanitarian network in the world, Caritas respond quickly and effectively to the needs of our brothers and sisters in places like Fiji, Nepal and Vanuatu.

Please support the Caritas Lent Appeal (envelopes available at back of church) or go online at www.caritas.org.nz to donate to the Fiji Fund. Alternatively you can call them on 0800 22 10 22



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Catholic Hurunui

An indulgence is ...

...a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain defined conditions through the Church's help when, as a minister of redemption, she dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions won by Christ and the saints"

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1471

CHRISM MASS You are invited to attend the Chrism Mass this year on Monday 21 March at 7.30pm at St Mary's Pro Cathedral. Bishop Basil will bless the oils and the priests' will renew their priestly commitment.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD This world-wide event for the Year of Mercy is being held this Friday and Saturday, March 4/5, at St Teresa's Parish, Riccarton. It consists of continuous adoration along with reconciliation for 17 of the 24 hours (1pm - 12am and 6am - 12pm). Pop in whenever you like. 24 hours for the Lord commences after 12pm Mass on Friday & finishes 12pm on Saturday. To see a schedule of priests please check out the Diocesan Website www.chch.catholic.org.nz

JP2CENTRE FAMILY BOX KART MAKING AND DERBY DAY together with the help of Bunnings; the JP2 Centre welcomes all families to take part in an afternoon of construction, sausages and racing. Tickets limited to 40 families with each family taking home a Box Kart at the end of the day. Saturday March 19th at St Teresa's School Hall, Riccarton from 1pm-5pm. Tickets Cost \$25 Per Family (1 Box kart per family). Bring a drill, Phillips screw driver and a plate for a shared afternoon tea. \$1 Sausage sizzle at race time. To register please contact Ben & Juanita kearnsynz@netaccess.co.nz or 3398760. Bookings close 13th March 7pm

CYT SPORTS DAY 13th March Catholic Cathedral College CYT Sports Day 2016 will be fun packed with activities designed for Yrs. 9-13. All are welcome to come and enjoy the entertainment and BBQ. We challenge all parishes to gather a team of eight and register online at <http://www.cyt.org.nz/events/social/sports> Individuals are also welcome to register we will put you in a team. Cost \$5 per person. Contact Sinead at CYT for more info sgilgunn@chch.catholic.org.nz

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

MEN'S GATHERING 9 MARCH hosted by JOSHUA FELLOWSHIP 7.15 pm Wednesday, 9th March 2016, St Gregory's 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. We have Fr John Adams speaking on "The sacrament of reconciliation in the Year of Mercy". Ph 027-646-4138 for more info.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HASTINGS 75th JUBILEE 1st - 3rd July 2016, celebrating with a Social Evening at school on Friday night, premier sport and Jubilee dinner followed by Mass at 10am on Sunday morning. Register by phoning Kath Clews after 30th March at (06) 878 6853.

ANTIOCH CAMP 15th - 17th April YMCA Wainui Camp. Antioch is an annual Camp run by CYT for Yrs. 11-13. This weekend will provide an opportunity for young people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The Camp will be full of inspiring talks, testimonies, fun games, small groups, opportunity to celebrate the sacraments, praise and worship and MORE. CYT Music Team will lead music for the weekend. Online Registration is open www.cyt.org.nz. Cost \$85 pp Contact Sinead for more info sgilgunn@chch.catholic.org.nz 022 010 9828.

LOOKING FOR HELP TO DEEPEN OR RENEW YOUR FAITH DURING LENT? Registrations for the Unbound Retreat (11-13 March) close on Feb 23rd. For more info/registration ph Maria 348 9221. See www.hearttothefather.com learn how Unbound can help you live in the power of the Lord.

'THE WAY OF THE CROSS' BOOK OF SCULPTURES AND POEMS The poet Bernadette Hall was invited and commissioned to study closely the Cathedral Stations of the Cross by Llew Summers and the texts of 'the Passion'. The poet spent many hours contemplating and meditating on their significance. She shares and communicates what she discovered, in her poems. Her voice is unique and her insight challenging and fresh. She brings events far away in time and space to our place and our time with great immediacy and poignancy. Great reflection material for Lent \$25 Available Cathedral House 03 366 9869 receptionists@chch.catholic.org.nz

THE HALSWELL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE will be celebrating their 60th Jubilee on the weekend 15-16 April 2016. Contact Shirley McNeill to register your interest Ph 322 6515 or sj.mcneill@xtra.co.nz

YEAR OF MERCY Fr Paul Williamson SM will present a power point on *Jesus Christ, Face of the Father's Mercy* at 7:30pm on Tuesdays 8 & 15 March at 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Church.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK Keep up to date with what is happening in the Diocese. Search 'Catholic Diocese of Christchurch'

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT An 18 hour course starts Thursday 7 April, @ 4.15p.m. at John Paul II High School, Greymouth. Contact Wendy at WClark@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0757 or visit www.chch.catholic.org.nz/tci

A 140th CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS to Rattray Street, Dunedin in 1876 will take place on the weekend of 8-10 July. Reg's georgecmorris@hotmail.com or phone 03 4565040.

DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN Josie Trollove gives a testimony from her recent experience of spending nearly 40 days in retreat. The beautiful message God opened her heart to, needs to be shared. Sat 12th March 1 pm - 3.30pm. Christ the King Parish Centre, Enquiries Diane Findlay 03 312 8672 www.dove.org.nz

AMBERLEY BUILD Note that due to increased work on areas around the church, the church will be used only on Sundays and for Funerals, and other times by arrangement from the start of March until the end of the build in April.

CARITAS ENVELOPES are now available from the church porch. Due to a hiccup these envelopes were late arriving this year. It would be much appreciated if next Sunday the envelopes for week one and two of Lent could also be filled and returned.

PERSON REQUIRED with building/property experience to oversee and coordinate maintenance on our churches in the Parish. Enquiries to Matt Blair 3147633

PARISH COMMUNICATION. The weekly newsletter continues to provide easy communication around the parish on email, hard copy and webpage. Notices need to be received Thursday afternoon at the latest. Thank you to those who distribute or forward the newsletter to others who might be interested. At present the distribution largely depends on the priest remembering to take the newsletters to each place, and Mass is celebrated each weekend only in four of our six parish churches. We are looking at the possibility of having the newsletter printed and available in every town on Friday afternoons as we do currently in Cheviot and Hawarden. Any suggestions about how or where to have these printed and available for pick-up in your own town? Library, store, school etc?

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH FACEBOOK page has regular updates including regular update photos of the presbytery build process. In the last couple of weeks the number of parishioners using this page is growing and the page is proving to be a useful part of the Parish Council's desire to ensure good communication. If there are any other ways we improve communication please let Sarah at the office know. At present we use the weekly newsletter, Website, email and Facebook.

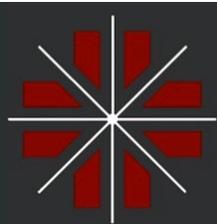
LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY that *Looking to Our Future* building project may serve to bring us together as one parish community of the Good Shepherd with the unity and joy that was so evident at last month's parish picnic.

2016 FIRST COMMUNION, RECONCILIATION All parents with interested children (age 7+) contact Sarah at catholichurunui@gmail.com

ANY YOUNG PERSON (13+) interested in receiving **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** contact Fr. John.

IMPORTANT If you are donating to the presbytery fund directly to the parish bank account (below) it is **ESSENTIAL** that you put a recognisable "code" with your deposit - i.e. "Amberley Build." A number of deposits have been made with no code and no name or contact info. Any donation that is not "coded" will be presumed to be for "planned giving" rather than the building project. If you wish to clarify the destination of a deposit you have made in recent weeks contact the parish office.

BANK: Westpac ACCOUNT:
CDOC The Catholic Parish of Hurunui
NUMBER: 03-1592-0522332-20
REFERENCE: Amberley Build
FURTHER INFO www.catholichurunui.nz



www.foodforfaith.org.nz
read, watch & listen
with Fr. John O'Connor
& on Facebook & Twitter