

Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

PARISH PRIEST

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Principal - Mrs Mini Joseph

4th October 2020 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day

(Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43)

Please click [here](#) for the readings. Please note that this link is 'live' and will take you to the actual day you access this page on. To access other days (including Sunday), please look at the menu on the right of the screen. Please explore this page as there are many other prayer resources you can access.

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel:

The famous Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, born soon after the Russian Revolution of 1917, is perhaps most famous for his work entitled "*The Gulag Archipalego*". This work gave an insight to the tyranny of the gulags (or forced-labour camps) of the Soviet Union that were such a mark of Stalinism. It was a tyranny he experienced first-hand. His writings so often reflect the pain of alienation. In his 1970 work entitled "*Lake Segden*", he wrote "All roads to this lake are barred, guards with swords and pistols protect it from intruders. The lake is surrounded by a silent wood where no one ventures; everyone has been frightened away - a secret lake in a secret forest. It is a beautiful place, where people could live in harmony with the elements and be inspired. But it cannot be. Away beyond the wood people sweat and heave, whilst all the roads leading to the lake are barred." Solzhenitsyn finishes the story: "Beloved, deserted lake. My native land..."

All imaginative writing, both secular and sacred, uses symbols and imagery to describe the beauty and the pain of human experience. In biblical writing the portrayal of the chosen people as the vineyard of the Lord was a familiar prophetic image, and we have an example of that in today's first reading, Isaiah's "Song of the Vineyard":

With all the care and cultivation he lavishes on his vineyard, the owner has a lively expectation of a good yield at harvest time; but all he receives for his labours are sour grapes.

In today's Gospel Matthew borrows some ideas from Isaiah's Song, but alters the central imagery: God's people are no longer the vineyard itself but tenants who work the vineyard.

Matthew clearly uses the parable, addressed to the chief priests and the elders, as a summary of the history of salvation. The landlord's servants stand for the succession of prophets God has sent to Israel, only to see them treated violently. The son is clearly Jesus himself, dragged out of Jerusalem to be killed.

The chief priests and elders react with hostility to the parable, but they cannot yet lay hands on Jesus without endangering their own position. But kill him they must, if they are to gain the inheritance for themselves. In wanting to lay their hands on Jesus, the leaders underline the truth of the parable; and it will only be a matter of time before they enact its conclusion.

The parable explains Jesus' action of cleansing the Temple and points to its result - the death of Jesus. But it isn't, of course, the end of the parable. There is a riddle that follows in the psalm that Jesus quotes. In Hebrew the word for 'son' is 'ben', and 'eben' is the word for 'stone'. The son rejected by the builders became the 'keystone' - their efforts to do away with the son fail.

The parable speaks to us about the patience of God: when his servants are killed he sends more and more in the hope that people will turn from their evil ways. Even when these are killed, he still hopes that his beloved Son will make his people change their ways. Jesus is God's last appeal, his final challenge. Depending on our response to him, judgement is then made. If we are now the tenants, then we are subject to God's expectation of us and subject to his judgement of us. God looks to us for the fruits of faith and love and obedience; he expects that we will deliver forgiveness and mercy and justice. Today's parable has its own question addressed to each of us: are these the fruits we produce?

Returning to Solzhenitsyn, the fruits produced by those who pay heed to God and those who don't is summed up by this observation of his: *"Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.' Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution...if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.'"*

Fr Rob

Masses Resume Again!

Now that the gathering limit has been raised to 100 people under the Alert Level 2 restrictions we can once again gather for the celebration of Mass.

Please note - the dispensation from Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains in place.

Once Alert Level 1 arrives we hope to be able to resume all Masses as usual and at the customary times.

As previously at Level 2, Masses will be celebrated on weekdays only. This is to manage the 100-person limit. It is requested that people attend Mass in their own parish and not travel unnecessarily to other parishes while the 100-person limit is in force.

We all pray that normality may soon be with us.

The temporary Mass timetable is as follows:

Monday 10am

Tuesday 10am and 6.30pm

Wednesday 10am

Thursday 10am and 6.30pm

Friday 12.05pm

(No Masses on the weekend)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Tuesdays 6pm and Fridays 11.30am

The 8am Mass time has been suspended due to the administrative needs of recording Mass attendees and church cleaning. Please communicate this timetable to those you know who do not have email or internet access.

The Sacrament will be held in the Reconciliation Room – please remain behind the curtain.

Please observe the following...

People need to maintain a one metre separation from others (unless you sit as a couple/family). Alternate pews will be closed to facilitate distancing (marked by posters at the end of each pew). Please fill the pews in such a way so that people do not need to clamber pass you to be seated.

Please book via the parish online booking system on the parish website. This has a twofold purpose of managing the 100-person limit and fulfilling contact tracing requirements. All bookings will cease at the close of office hours (3pm) on the day of evening Masses. For daytime Masses online bookings will close one hour before Mass commences – phone bookings will close at the end of office hours (3pm) of the day before. You may book online [here](#). Please phone to book only if you cannot book online. If you know of someone who cannot book online, you may book on their behalf. You may register up the beginning of Mass by means of a written register, but you may not be guaranteed entry if numbers exceed 100 people (from the previous level 2 experience this is unlikely). Please arrive early so that you can be checked in. This will ensure social distancing and avoid last-minute congestion so that you can be seated on time. Mass will commence at the advertised times.

Please use the hand sanitizer as you enter the church.

Holy Communion will continue to be distributed under one kind (i.e. no chalice).

The sign of peace will continue to be exchanged without physical contact.

We look forward to celebrating Mass again as a parish community soon.



Maurice Aldridge passed away this past week. A long time parishioner, we pray for the repose of Maurice and also extend our prayers and condolences to Susan and her family.

Maurice's Funeral Mass will be held in our parish church next week - date is yet to be confirmed. The funeral notice will be out on NZ Herald this Saturday.

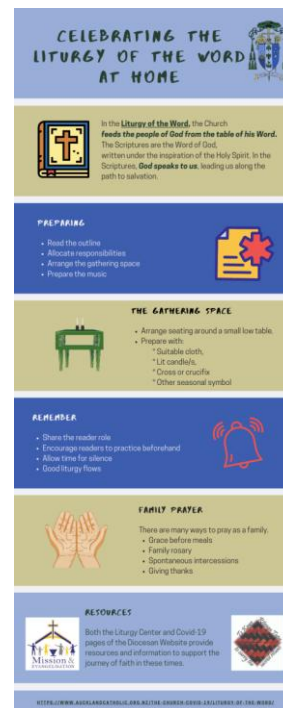
Masses online and on TV



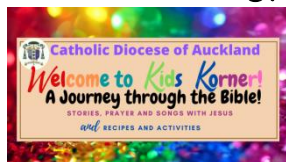
Broadcast Mass Shine TV Sunday 2.00pm Free-to-air TV Channel 25 | SKY TV Channel 201. Also available to download from 6pm Saturday on the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>

Resources for Praying at Home this Sunday

There are two different formats available for Sunday liturgy: one more suitable for families (please click [here](#)), the other more formal (please click [here](#)).



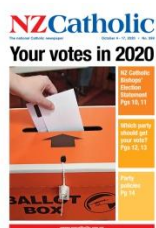
Children's Liturgy for Sunday



Here are some resources to conduct a liturgy for children at home. This is sourced from the Diocesan Liturgy Centre. It has something for the family / children throughout each day of the week - breaks open the word, some songs, videos, recipes and activities. We hope you find this resource helpful.

Please click [here](#) to access the resource.

NZ Catholic - latest issue October 4-17 (Issue No. 599)



A free digital issue of the latest NZ Catholic newspaper is available [here](#):

VENERABLE Suzanne Aubert

A Woman of Great Faith • He wahine whakapono nui

Venerable Suzanne Aubert/Meri Hōhepa Celebration Day October 4

This Sunday we remember and celebrate the ***spirituality and good works*** of Venerable Suzanne Aubert known to Maori as Meri Hōhepa. It's the one day in the year when we can take time to reflect on what this remarkable woman achieved here in Aotearoa/New Zealand and be inspired and encouraged as we hope and pray that she will soon be formally recognised by the church as New Zealand's first Saint.

Cardinal John Dew received a personal letter last month from the president of the Causes for Saints, confirming the cure attributed to Suzanne's alleged intercession is right now being closely examined in Rome. If the cure is accepted as miraculous, she will be beatified and known as Blessed. This will be a very significant stage on her journey to Sainthood.

One can only wonder what Suzanne Aubert would say about the COVID-19 pandemic but we know she would be working at the coalface ensuring all were cared for during this time of upheaval and stress. Her *wairua* lives on in the work of the Sisters of Compassion and their co-workers today.

To coincide with Celebration Sunday, the Sisters have launched a special video project design for students. Details are on the Suzanne Aubert website. (www.suzanneaubert.co.nz).

You will also find new resources including a video book on her life and a booklet of 35 reflections.

Please pray for her beatification and eventual canonisation. And, let us remember her constant prayer. ***"Thanks be to God for all He has done and is doing for us."***

Referenda for General Election

At the upcoming General Elections (October 17th), we have two referenda proposals to vote on:

- (1) Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill? and
- (2) Do you support the End of Life Choice Act 2019 coming into force?

For more info:

www.euthanasiadebate.org.nz

www.votesafe.nz

www.riskylaw.nz

www.voiceforlife.org.nz

www.righttolife.org.nz

End of Life Choice Act 2019 (Euthanasia) the link below summarises the wrong information put out in the latest TVNZ Q & A Programme (13th September)

<https://www.euthanasiadebate.org.nz/tvznz-qa-misinformation-end-of-life-choice-act/>

Excellent Video Clip

<https://resources.thinkingmatters.org.nz/protecting-vulnerable-people-from-a-duty-to-die>

The Nathaniel Report, published by the New Zealand Catholic bishops' Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics. Articles include scrutiny of the euthanasia and cannabis referendums being held at the same time as the October 17 general election.

The issue is also online here: www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Nathaniel-Report-61-FINAL.pdf

Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum:

- The Act only requires a doctor to "do their best to ensure that the person expresses their wish free from pressure." However, the Act fails to outline how this happens. Doctors are not trained to detect coercion and are further limited in their ability to detect coercion because, unlike the Netherlands, they cannot interview others without the patient's permission.
- Requests for an assisted death are often motivated by depression, something that is also extremely difficult to detect. There is no mandatory screening for depression in the Act.
- In the Netherlands and Belgium, disabled people and people who are mentally ill were not initially eligible. However, assisted death is now offered to people with mental illnesses and dementia, and to disabled people. The same changes will likely happen here.

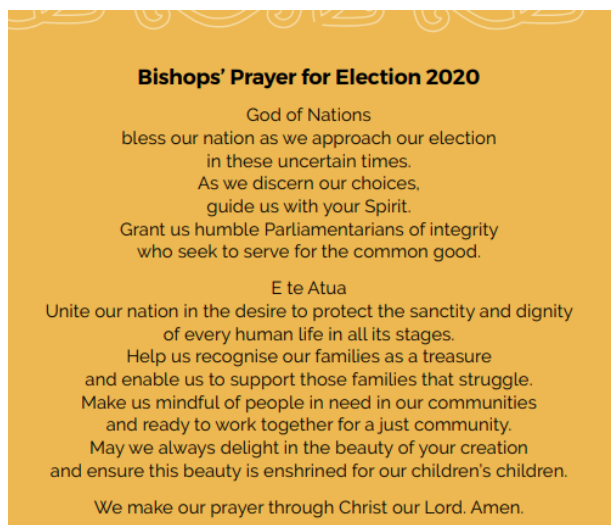
The EOLC Act is badly drafted and seriously flawed. Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not 'compassion' to vote for a dangerous law.

See www.riskylaw.nz or www.votesafe.nz or www.carealliance.org.nz or www.nathaniel.org.nz

Authorised by John Kleinsman, 15 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington

NZ Catholic Bishops' Election Statement

The New Zealand Bishops' Conference has produced their *2020 Election Statement* in order to assist people in their discernment. Please read the full statement here: www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Catholic-Bishops-Election-Statement-2020.pdf



Notices:

Planned Giving Envelopes

The new set of Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection from the church foyer. Please uplift yours as soon as possible. If you think online banking would be a more convenient option, please contact Chatty at the parish office to arrange this. Thank you for your generosity.

Liturgy Conference Although the Liturgy Conference has been postponed until October 2021 Starting from Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd of October we plan to offer a series of **digital presentations** from Conference presenters. If you have registered for the Conference or subscribed to the Conference newsletter, the link to this portal will be emailed to you. Please subscribe to the Liturgy Conference newsletter via the website <https://wuss.org.nz/> if you want to receive the link.

Ecumenical Day – Presence in Unity with Sarah Hart, Fr Kevin Waldie and Rev Ivica Gregurec.

If Auckland is in Level 1, we will have a celebration with biblical, theological, artistic musical input and morning tea at St Columba Centre (Ponsonby, Auckland). If we are in Level 1-4, it will be organised as Zoom event.

Saturday, 17 October, 10am-1pm

Fee: \$10 (if on site at St Columba Centre). Free if by ZOOM.

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

See also: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/ecumenical-day/>

Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I ? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 28 November, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60. (Please note new Date!)

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>

Evangelion Introducing a NEW apostolate on a mission to set the NZ Church on fire with passion and zeal! We hope to equip people to go out and spread the good news. We are hosting a virtual conference on the 9-11 Oct 2020 and have an incredible lineup of speakers from the US, Australia and NZ! We invite you to register for this FREE conference and spread the word to your whanau and friends! For more information about the conference and ways to support Evangelion visit www.evangelion.co.nz

Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace.

Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshiping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment 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.

Eucharist has been celebrated or will be celebrated for:

Recently Deceased: Maurice Aldridge, Sec Foo Fong, Patricia Taigel, Cristina Lelis, Amalia Basilio, Roger Long, Simon Gibson, Mary Margaret Ness, Ross Dallow, Danica Vujcich, Eileen Russell, Pauline Underell, Brother Don Murray

Sick: Lucy Lee, Rita Kelly, D.E.Mijares, Sue Wong, Kathryn Badrick, Millie Pacheco, Leo Cassin, Theresa Way, Carol Rogers, Lloyd Jones, Corazon Abulencia, Joe & Nicholas Geor, Wim Wouts, Maurice Aldridge, Tony Porter, Josie Mijares, Evelyn Totanes, Paul Jang

Anniversaries: Barney McCahill (Aug 16), Peter Williams (Aug 20), Bernard Radford (Sept 1), Mons. Pat Ward (Sept 12)

Readings for Next Week (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1. Isaiah 25:6-10
 2. Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
- Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

