

BULLETIN IN EXILE

Burnside, Bryndwr & Papanui Catholic Parishes

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Fr Rick Loughnan

Dear Parishioners,

Well here we are at the second Sunday in lock down, **and its Palm Sunday!**

Amazing to begin Holy Week like this. It will be strange not gathering for these central feasts of our year together; walking with Jesus into Jerusalem this Sunday; being present at the Last Supper through the Holy Thursday Mass; gathering to share in His suffering and death on Good Friday; welcoming those who have been preparing to enter into the divine life by Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, and those who are being received into the Church as we celebrate his rising from the dead Easter vigil and Resurrection Mass.

Let me encourage you to do as much as you can by taking part online.

For some of us in our communities there are big questions. **Where is God in human suffering? How could God let this happen?** These are not new questions. We do not need a virus as frightening as this one to ask these questions, yet at this time these questions feel more present to us.

In a sense the Bible does not answer these questions directly. Creation, the universe, suffering in all its complexity is beyond our understanding. We have the sciences and they tell us much even though this knowledge must change and deepen. However, they do not answer these questions. What the Scriptures do is to take us **not away** from God but **to** God. All our answers lie with Him.

There are **two** kinds of suffering. The first kind of suffering comes from the very make up and unfolding of creation – earthquakes, natural weather disasters. The Catechism calls these **physical evil**. The second kind of suffering we call **moral evil**. This is the result of sin which entered our world at the beginning of human life and of humanity turning away from God. In a very real way it is sin itself that punishes us. We know the results of sin; human discord, wars, violence, injustice, the damage to our environment that comes from human greed and despoilment. Even though we say in some sense all sickness came from the original sin of our forebears we cannot say a mutated virus such as the corona virus is because we have sinned.

As we start Holy week we can see God's answer to our questions about suffering. The prophet in the book of Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus looks forward to the great mystery of Jesus coming among us, taking on our sins in his crucifixion and death; *"a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, our the sorrows he carried....and through his wounds we are healed."* This is the first reading for the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday. **There is the answer God gives us.** He himself comes among us and takes on our sorrows and sins. He is our salvation.

When we are afraid, when we do not know where to turn, when we have no answer for our problems, we run to him. *"Come to me all you who labour and I will give you rest"*, but there is a proviso! We must be open to his grace!

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Mother Teresa once said; **"Prayer enlarges the heart so that we are able to receive the gifts God wants to give us."** We must trust Him. If we need forgiveness for our sins - let us say sorry, make an act of contrition, and resolve to go to confession as soon as we are able to again. If you are afraid - ask for His grace to show you what to do and open your heart in trust to him.

If you are asking the big questions - **pray!** Yes ask his wisdom but also reach out in love to those you can help at this time. Ask his help to be gentle, forgiving, and kind to those in your bubble. Phone those who are on their own. Pray for others, and then watch the big questions dissolve as the Spirit of God works in your hearts again.

Let us take up the cross with Jesus in the week ahead bringing everything to him.

God bless.



The bubble at Cotswold Ave enjoying Fr Alister's nachos on Tuesday night

"PRAYER
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St Teresa of
Calcutta

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

We have a prayer team that can offer prayer for people at any time. We are inviting you to join the team.

So what is expected of you?

A prayer request will be forwarded to you by text message.

Upon receipt of the text you will pray for the intention. You do not have to go anywhere or make contact with anyone. Just pray where you are, then continue to pray for the intention in your regular prayer time.

If you would like to be part of this ministry please send your name, cell phone number and email address to prayer@fdm.org.nz

If you would like more information, please ring Graeme Scott on **021 413 659**



To request prayer, text details to
021 413 659 or email prayer@fdm.org.nz

*If you are in need of a priest in case of an emergency, please call
(03) 359 0444 or 021 223 0680*

MONTY'S MUSINGS

Monty Bamford (Seminarian on Placement)

During some of the livestreamed Masses we see on the internet, we may have noticed that the statues, images and crucifix are covered with a purple cloth. **Why is this?** Well, traditionally the final two weeks of Lent were called Passiontide and marked a more intense focus on the passion and death of Jesus. During this period, on the Saturday before the Fifth Sunday of Lent (or Passion Sunday), all images, statues and crucifixes were covered with a violet veil. In the liturgical reforms after the Second Vatican Council, the period called Passiontide was suppressed, but the custom of veiling images and statues remained. It remains today a praiseworthy, but not obligatory, practice in our churches throughout New Zealand and around the world.

The custom of veiling the crucifix, images and statues has **three main effects for us spiritually. Firstly, it heightens our awareness of the penitential aspect of Lent and prepares us for the coming of Easter.** When we see these veiled images every time we visit a church during the last two weeks of lent, we desire for them to be unveiled, just as Christ unveils new life for us in his death and resurrection. **Secondly, it focuses our attention more closely on the words which are being said on Palm Sunday** as we hear the narrative of Jesus' passion and on Good Friday as we venerate the cross. At the Easter Vigil, where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the veils are removed as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection. **Finally, the third effect is to symbolise the curtain in the temple which was torn when Jesus died.** The veil between heaven and earth is removed. Christ himself joins heaven and earth together by offering himself to the Father and enables all of us, through our baptism, to offer ourselves to Him in our daily lives and at Mass.

Practically speaking, the cloths used are usually violet, of light material and without decoration. All statues and images excluding the Stations of the Cross and stained-glass windows are covered from the Saturday evening before the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The crucifix is uncovered before the Good Friday afternoon celebration of the Passion of the Lord while the other images and statues are uncovered before the Easter Vigil.

Maybe in our homes we could cover and uncover some of our sacred images, statues and crucifixes as we journey through this last two weeks of Lent.

"AT THE EASTER VIGIL, WHERE WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, THE VEILS ARE REMOVED AS WE CELEBRATE THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION!"



CHRISTCHURCH NORTH CATHOLIC PARISH

Update by Fr Rick Loughnan

Following a meeting of our three pastoral councils, finance committees, and administration and pastoral staff at the end of February we have continued to work on the plan for drawing our three parishes together. One of the needs that arose out of that meeting was to properly manage the process of forming the new parish. We priests were advised that we were in danger of muddling through this process and that a good solution was to employ a Project Manager who could help formulate an initial charter and then work on the timeline and the process of forming the new parish. This would include communication and input.



Christchurch North
Catholic Parish

To that effect we have employed **Brendan Woodnutt as Project Manager**. It is really good to have Brendan on board and I include a brief biography from Brendan below.

We have been working on completing a Charter for the work, and the vision and mission goals presented at that February meeting drawn from the Bishop's vision. We are planning, subject to the lock down and further disruptions, to do some analysis in the three parishes of people in ministry and various roles to help inform these goals. The next part of the process is to finalise our administrative roles for the new parish and employ those staff. We have also been working on what the leadership team of the new parish might look like in the light of the current vision and objectives. We are planning to call a bigger gathering of parishioners together sometime after the lock down to present this initial work.

Hello! My name is Brendan Woodnutt and I am currently a member of St Joseph's Parish, Papanui.

I have worked previously in national health and safety manager roles for Stevedoring, Rail and Electricity, the National Health and Safety Manager for IRD and have run my own health and safety business for 10 years. I was the national chairman for Catholic Charismatic Renewal and was the Director of Firepower Youth Outreach. I have just completed a Masters Degree in Catechetics and Evangelisation from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

I am excited about the Bishop's vision and am pleased to help manage this process in our area of the diocese.

ONLINE MASS SCHEDULES

Did you know that Weekday & Sunday Masses are streamed online? (They can be viewed at a later time too.)

Weekday Mass, Mon - Sat: 9am

Sunday Mass: 10am

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbDyKPjjDeYWfpoz_hSDLfw

From Sunday 5th April, Mass will be televised on free-to-air TV.

Shine TV, Freeview Channel 25

Sundays from 5th April - **1:35 pm**

Good Friday, 10th April - **8:30 am**



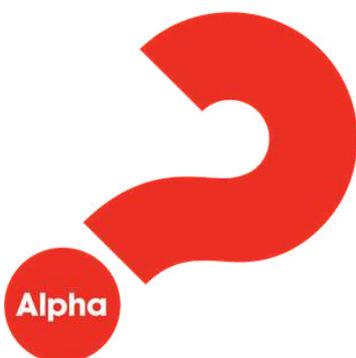
ALPHA UPDATE

Is there more to life than this?

Due to the lockdown our current ALPHA programme between the three parishes has been stopped. We will be running a new ALPHA later in the year.

Those who have been part of the current programme will be able to join again at the beginning or at their point of departure.

See other online opportunities in this Bulletin for programmes as we continue through the lockdown.



DON'T FORGET YOUR MENTAL HEALTH!

Fr Alister Castillo

In recent years, the impact and importance of **mental health** has been brought into the spotlight, and rightly so! Working in youth ministry, the wellbeing of our young peoples' mental health is one area that we, youth leaders, and ministers all work to support. (This extends to everyone, by the way! Not just our young people!)

This is important, since we know that events such as the Christchurch earthquakes, and more recently the events that occurred last March, have an impact on peoples' mental health in the form of feelings of anxiety, worry, confusion, and even anger.

Just being in lockdown, while simultaneously being bombarded with COVID-19 updates, can get quite overwhelming. In those moments, to feel the feelings listed above is absolutely normal.

There are some great resources online that give tips and information that assist with your wellbeing, and do seek those out if you need them. That being said, I also encourage you to please reach out to another human person if you are not doing or feeling so great.

A parishioner in our parish reminded us of a service (**Mental Health Advocacy and Peer Support - MHAPS**) that is operating during the lockdown. You can reach them via phone, email, or even Zoom! If anyone in the parish is wishing that they could talk to someone about anxiety or depression, or has concerns around mental health or addictions, please **call MHAPS on (03) 365 9479 // or text 022 370 8055.**

To add some laughter to your day, here's a photo of me from LifeTeen Aotearoa Summer Camp 2018.

Thanks to Aiber (my sister-in-law) who decided to make me into a meme a few years ago.

(For those who don't know what a 'meme' is, feel free to google it!)



CONNECTING SPIRITUALLY ONLINE

Here are a few online websites that may help your spiritual wellbeing during this time.

Enjoy!



Christchurch Diocese Website:
chchcatholic.nz/spiritual-resources/

Spiritual Reflection on Suffering:
www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/a-shoreless-ocean/

Free Virtual Online Conversations and Retreats for Holy Week:
<https://www.ltp.org/resources-during-crisis>

Stations of the Cross:
<https://www.fdm.org.nz/stations>

Magnificat (Daily Readings)
<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE

Irene Magurie (St Joseph's Pastoral Associate)

Regarding our First Holy Communion Programme – as expected the timeline is now at the mercy of the Virus. So as soon as we get into some sort of normality – we will update the timeline and start again from where we left off.

Please keep all our young families in your prayers at this time.

It has been a long time since I have had to keep a tribe of children happy, busy, placated, fed, bathed, shielding them from the news, and tucked up in bed for another day to start all over again... So, I do acknowledge how challenging this lockdown might be for the parents with young families. Yet children can bring so much joy amongst the craziness – so I hope that is happening in your homes.

How do you bring God into your bubble?

We recommend that you attend Mass online at least once a week – as this helps create a sense of normality in our everyday routines.

<https://chcatholic.nz/> or <https://www.facebook.com/PeterChanelParish/>

(these are YouTube clips – and can watch this at any time of the day)

The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch also has this awesome online site with some Spiritual Recourses and some specifically aimed for Children.

With the most important Easter Season nearly here – starting with Palm Sunday this weekend, why don't you try your best to replicate some of the Catholic Church's symbols and rituals at your home.

For example:

Find a branch off a tree that looks like the Palms we bless and distribute on Palm Sunday and have them with you at Mass this weekend. Find some purple material to cover some of your small Holy Statues, Holy Pictures and Crosses here at home. They will stay covered till the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night.

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland has some great information and formation about Holy Week.

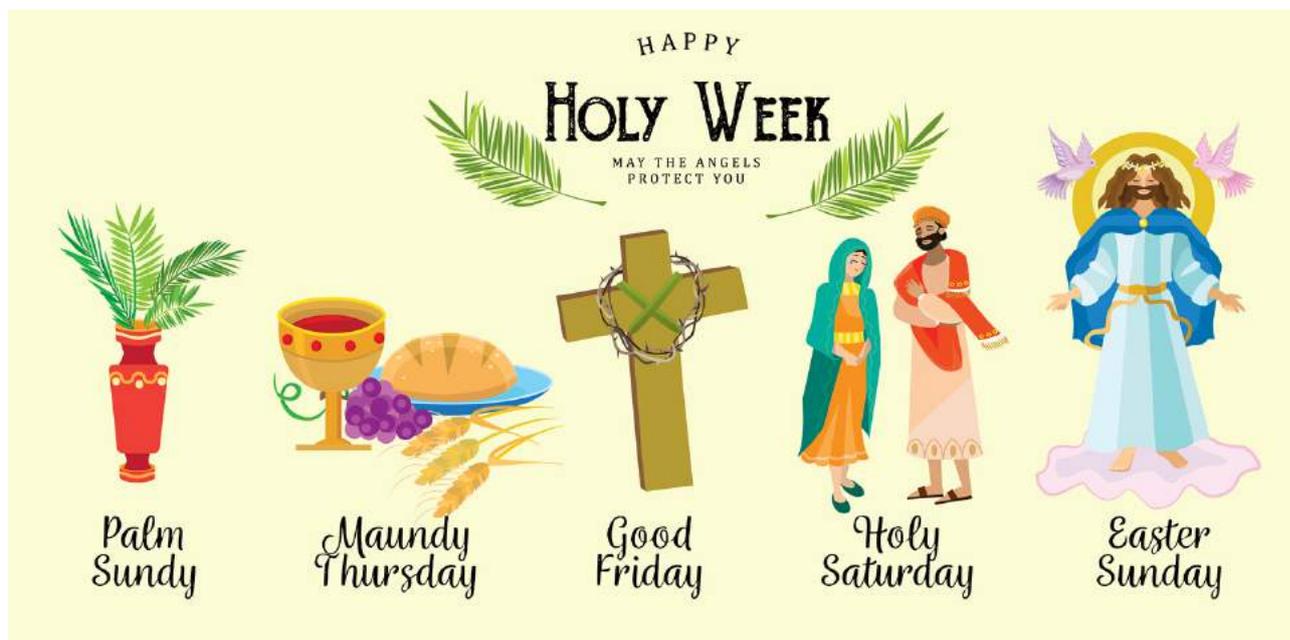
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/re/family-faith/learn-together/holy-week/>

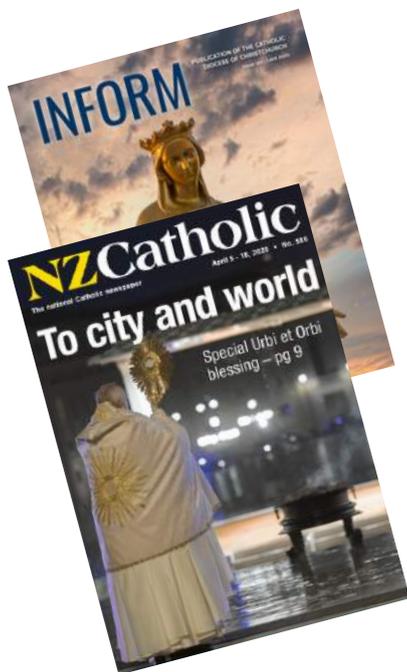
So, where is God in all this?

I read an interesting Facebook post in the last week and one of the comments really resonated with me. I have interpreted it as God saying, **'now go to your room and think about what you have done!'**

Perhaps He is asking us to rethink our life and remember to lean on Him in our greatest of struggles.

Stay well, love others, be kind, and have HOPE.





The latest editions of 'Inform' and NZ Catholic is out now online!

Visit the Christchurch Diocese website to read the 'Inform' magazine:
<https://chchcatholic.nz/2020/03/inform-issue-121/>

Visit the following website to read the latest edition of 'NZ Catholic':
<https://indd.adobe.com/view/888733fa-9004-4e70-9b91-df418a9f5d2a>

If you would like to change to Automatic Payment for the Parish Planned Giving, please contact your parish secretary for more details.

RESOURCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Here are some resources that may help with your children and young people during these times.



Cathkids

CathKids is weekly interactive experience with a short animated video on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. It's perfect for use in the classroom, in children's liturgy and at home. Can be used in groups facilitated by an adult or in self-directed exploration by children aged 7-12.
cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/

Creating a Sacred Prayer Table at Home

The Christchurch Diocese has a great resource on how to create a prayer table at home.
chchcatholic.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Creating-A-Prayer-Table-at-Home.pdf

Prayer and Witness Challenge #02 - Holy Week

The Catholic Education Office in our Diocese has created a resource for students that incorporate activities relating to the liturgical season.

chchcatholic.nz/spiritual-resources/ (Link under 'Children's Resources')

Or contact Megan Stewart for a copy



PASTORAL ASSOCIATE CONTACT DETAILS

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021 069 6233

Kaelyn Graham

(CTK Youth Coordinator)
ctkyouthnz@gmail.com

KNOW ANYONE IN NEED OF FOOD?

The St Vincent de Paul society have updated their way of distributing food parcels in light of the lockdown.

Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, we have ceased providing food parcels directly to people's homes. We have directed our Christchurch Vincentians to cease from direct food delivery. To minimize person to person contact, we have now established an electronic voucher system whereby those in need contact us through our welfare line.



To request a food grocery voucher from the St. Vincent de Paul Society Christchurch Area, please follow one of these **four ways** of communication:

- 1) Phone **03 389 7484**, extension 1 (please leave a message)
- 2) Text **027 358 9400** (text 'request voucher', name and address)
- 3) Visit www.svdpchch.co.nz/how-can-we-help-you.html (fill out the request form)
- 4) Email welfare@svdpchch.co.nz (with 'request voucher', name, address and contact number)

**Another contact number for if you need food:
0800 HUNGRY (0800 486 479)**

VINNIES NEED YOUR HELP!

We have had numerous requests from vulnerable families reaching out for food support and our team are working and networking to ensure that these families are being supported.

We anticipate that this is only going to increase as the lockdown continues.

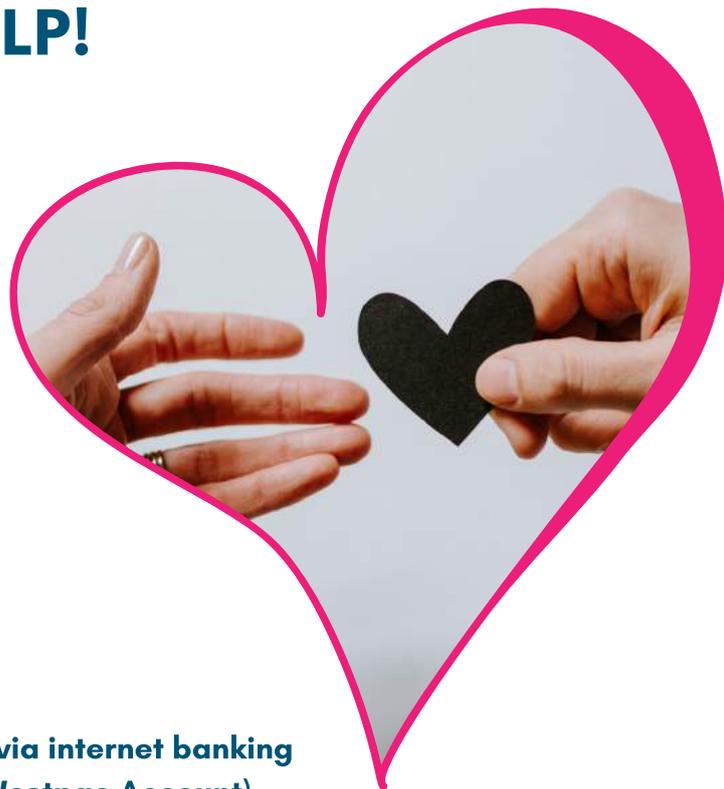
We can't do this alone. We need your help!

Since our shops and churches are closed, monetary help is the best way for now.

Thank you for helping us to help others.

To donate, please visit:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/svdpchch> or via internet banking
03-0854-0706103-00 (SVDP Christchurch Westpac Account)



PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:



Parish Office Emails

Burnside: ctk.parishextra.co.nz

Papanui: pap.bish.rc@extra.co.nz

Bryndwr: holytrinitybryndwr@gmail.com



Website

christtheking.org.nz

stjosephspapanui.weebly.com/



Parish Secretaries' Phone Numbers

Burnside: 03 358 5795 or 021 334 683

Papanui: 03 352 9275 or 027 202 5950

Bryndwr: 351 5795 or 027 471 0245



Facebook

facebook.com/christchurchnorthparish