

BULLETIN IN EXILE

Burnside, Bryndwr & Papanui Catholic Parishes

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Monty Bamford (Seminararian on Placement)

This Sunday is a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is also the beginning of National Vocations Awareness Week here in New Zealand. This coincides with the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter where Jesus presents himself as a shepherd.

The symbol of a shepherd, which is also found in the responsorial psalm (Psalm 23) and the second reading, might strike us as unusual. Many of us will have television programs like Country Calendar with shepherds herding sheep with their dogs on steep hillsides or in yards. What does Jesus mean when he says that he is the “gate for the sheep” (John 10:7), or what about when he refers to himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:12)?

In order to understand these symbols, it is important to understand rural Palestine when the Gospels were written. Shepherding was a common occupation of the Israelite people. Shepherds were hired by the owner of a flock to feed the sheep, protect them from harm and prevent them from getting mixed up with other flocks. Most villages had a sheepfold which was a space enclosed by stone walls. Often it was attached to a house. The sheepfold had one opening through which the sheep entered and exited. Several flocks might share the same sheepfold, but when the shepherd walked up to the entrance and called his sheep, they recognised the shepherd’s voice and followed him out. At night the shepherd would lie across the opening to prevent the sheep from leaving and to prevent thieves and bandits from climbing the walls.

With this background, our Gospel and psalm start to make sense. Jesus tells us he is both the gate for the sheep (John 10:7) and the shepherd who calls his sheep by name and leads them out (John 10:3). Later in the passage, Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep (John 10:11).



A typical sheepfold in first century Palestine

How does this relate to our vocation? Firstly, through our baptism and confirmation all of us are “sheep” who have a vocation to live for Christ, and through Him, for God. The Church is God’s sheepfold. Jesus is the gate to the sheepfold. Through baptism and confirmation in his name we belong to him. Jesus is also the shepherd. The shepherd is responsible for calling his sheep and the sheep listen to him and discern his voice among the other noises in our lives. Listening to him and following him will lead us to abundant life now and eternal life in the world to come.

Jesus also calls some men to a vocation as shepherds like him in our Christian communities. The image of a shepherd is used for ordained ministers in the Church, especially bishops and priests. The Bishop even uses a special staff (called a crozier) when he celebrates Mass which is a symbol of the crook that a shepherd uses. Bishops and priests are called to teach, to govern and to sanctify the Church in the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. What a responsibility! They do this primarily through celebrating the sacraments in which God shares his divine life with us.

They do this through their preaching, where they explain how the scriptures relate to our lives today. Bishops and priests also act like the Good Shepherd by living celibately. By not getting married and laying down their lives for their sheep, they model the self-sacrificial love to their people which Jesus refers to in today's Gospel: **"The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"** (John 10:11).

People often ask me: "Monty, what can we do to encourage vocations in our country?" To end with, here are three thoughts on how we can encourage vocations in NZ.



Exercise our baptismal priesthood!

The Second Vatican Council affirmed that through our baptism and confirmation we are priests too. We are co-responsible with the ordained ministers for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Part of Bishop Paul's vision for our parish is that priests and lay people are given the opportunity to use their talents and gifts to glorify God and build up his Kingdom in this part of the city. This may be directly through helping out in the parish, but it can also be done by seeking the kingdom of God by in our professions, jobs and study. For many of us this will be in family life as parents and spouses. The family is the domestic church and the witness of the self-sacrificial love of parents is the first example of the Good Shepherd our young people see.



Ask!

Ask the young men and women in our life if they have considered becoming a priest or entering consecrated life. We might have sons, daughters, nieces or nephews, grandchildren or Godchildren who have never considered this vocation. A gentle prompting may make them aware of the possibility the Good Shepherd is calling them to follow him in this unique way.



Pray!

Pray! Pray for our bishops and priests. Pray for those in formation for the priesthood and consecrated life. Pray for the gift of celibacy to be understood and treasured by the Church. Pray that the Lord will send workers into his harvest. Traditionally in Christchurch, **Thursday is seen a day to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.** Please continue to do this.

Keep an eye out in this month's Inform for the story of how Monty is discerning a vocation as a diocesan priest.

"I GIVE YOU MY
HANDS TO WORK
FOR YOU,
MY FEET TO RUN
FOR YOU,
MY EYES, THAT
YOU MIGHT
SHINE OUT OF
THEM."

Fr Emmet McHardy
SM, NZ Marist
19 June 1904 -
17 May 1933



Fr Tien Cao

is the Christchurch Diocesan Vocations Director.

*For more information email
vocations.chch@gmail.com*

Visit the National Seminary's Website
<http://www.holycross.org.nz/>



MAY (MARY'S MONTH)

Fr Alister Castillo

In January of this year I spent two weeks in Forest Lakes, Ōtaki, a small town on the Kapiti Coast, halfway between Wellington and Palmerston North. Was I on holiday? Not quite! I was at summer camp; Life Teen Aotearoa Summer Camp, to be exact. Here, over the course of two weeks, roughly 300 young people attended Life Teen Summer Camp, and I was blessed to be their chaplain for those two weeks. This year, we were able to run the camp twice due to the increase of young people and their parishes attending (we had 5 young people from Christ the King attend the second week of camp).

The theme of Life Teen Camp this year was **Fiat: Mary's "Yes," or "Let it Be."**

Over the course of the camp, our guest speakers unpacked Mary's "Fiat" and what this meant for us, and how we are to respond to God by saying "Yes" everyday to do God's will.

In our Catholic tradition, we have two months in which we focus on Mary: the month of October is dedicated to the Rosary, while May is dedicated to Mary. For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honour Mary, mother of God. **Not just a day in May, but the entire month!**

Pope Paul VI wrote an encyclical on the Month of May, stating that May is the *"month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne"* (Encyclical *Mense Maio (the Month of May) no.1*).

In this month of Mary, I encourage all of us to deepen our devotion to Our Lady. Even though we cannot visit our churches and light a votive candle in front of the statue of our Blessed Mother, many of us will have statues or icons of Mary in our homes. Perhaps we may set up our prayer space in dedication to our Blessed Mother and challenge ourselves to recite the rosary every day. If praying the rosary is a bit much - especially with smaller children - one decade is a good alternative.

Let us entrust to her our concerns and intentions, for she will present them to Jesus.

As Saint Maximilian Kolbe once said: **"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."**



Photos (Top to bottom) - Week One Camp Group Photo; Group from Christ the King Parish, Burnside; Week Two Camp Group Photo.

"NEVER BE
AFRAID OF
LOVING THE
BLESSED VIRGIN
TOO MUCH. YOU
CAN NEVER LOVE
HER MORE THAN
JESUS DID."

St Maximilian Kolbe



A FEW MORE PHOTOS FROM LIFE TEEN SUMMER CAMP 2020



St Joseph's Youth Group
Sunday Evenings (during term time)
7pm

Christ the King Youth Group
Monday Evenings (during term time)
7pm

Contact Elizabeth for the link to the Youth Group on Zoom!

Contact Kaelyn for the link to the Youth Group on Zoom!

YOUTH WORKER CONTACT DETAILS

Christ the King Youth Coordinator

Kaelyn Graham - ctkyouthnz@gmail.com

St Joseph's Youth Coordinators

Elizabeth O'Sullivan - stjoespapy@gmail.com

Jerome O'Sullivan - jeromeosullivan2000@gmail.com

Nathan Burtenshaw - nathanburt1@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)**

OUR VINNIES NEED YOU

Our three local St Vincent de Paul conferences have seen an increase of those who are in need in our respective communities.

If you are in a position to be able to support them financially, please consider doing so via internet banking (**account numbers below**) with the reference '**Donation**'.

SVDP - Burnside Conference (Westpac)
03 - 0802 - 0102340 - 00

SVDP - Papanui Conference (Westpac)
03 - 0854 - 0646219 - 00

SVDP - Bryndwr Conference (Westpac)
03 - 1707 - 0154067 - 00



PARISH STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Please pray for the following intentions

For Pope Francis and the Bishops of Aotearoa

For our Civil Leaders

For those struggling during this lockdown period

For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life

For those who are sick:

Bishop Basil Meeking; Gerard MacManus (Papanui Parish); Noeline George (Papanui Parish)

For those who have died, especially during this time:

Brian Eccleton (Recently Deceased, Bryndwr Parish); Mary Lee (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Anne Attwood (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Brian Joyce (Recently Deceased, Bryndwr Parish); Erin Vermeeren (Recently Deceased, Burnside Parish); Jill Lever (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Nora Collier (Recently Deceased); Stephen Cassidy (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Sr Enid Lagan RSM (Recently Deceased); Jocelyn Rusbatch (Recently Deceased, Papanui Parish); Carlo Roberto Leopoldo Barbafiera (Recently Deceased); Sr Mary Boyes RSM (Recently Deceased);



No major feast days and memorials this week.

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

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: 021 334 683

Papanui: 03 352 9275 or 027 202 5950

Bryndwr: 03 351 5795 or 027 471 0245



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facebook.com/christchurchnorthparish