

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish



15th Sunday Ordinary Time 12 July 2020 Year A

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13: 1-23

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places . . . Other seed fell among thorns . . . Still other seed fell on good soil." — Matthew 13:3–8.

Although this is often known as the parable of the sower and the seed, it can also be said this is a parable about the soil. All four types of soil are essentially the same dirt but are in different conditions and respond in different ways to cultivation.

What made one soil more responsive and the other less?

In early times a family would be appointed a section of land to farm. A "path" was held in common by all the farmers. Over time, the soil on the path would compact. It was never ploughed and never fertilized. In the parable, the seed that is sown on the path is not able to penetrate the ground because of the constant use.

The second type of soil is the "rocky" places" or the shallow soil where the plough didn't cut deeply enough to break up the hard ground just below the surface. This soil produced only plants with weak, shallow roots.

The third type of soil mentioned is the thorny soil, where weeds overtook what was planted.

All the types of soils mentioned here are actually in the same plot of ground with one major difference: Only one area was fully yielded to cultivation, to being changed and prepared for planting. That area was called the good soil.

The greatest amount of fruit produced was not determined by how rich the soil was, but how yielded to the plough it was. The soil in each condition received seed, but not all produced quality fruit.

Everyone receives seed, the Word of God. Everyone has potential for the harvest, living a fruitful life, but the ones who will produce the most fruit will be the ones most yielded to cultivation.

Reflection:

How I apply this passage is by asking questions: Can I be "cultivated" in my life? How correctable am I? How quickly do I forgive? Can I self-correct? The greater my yielding to God's cultivation the greater the capacity of my fruitfulness in life.

Prayer

Loving God, create in me a soft heart, an open heart that is readily yielded to your Word and your Command to Love God, to Love People as you Love and Cultivate Me. Make me fruitful, I pray. Amen.

Pete Roe sm



The Community of communities.

On Sunday morning there was a gathering after the SS Peter & Paul's Mass for those who wanted, as Fr Pete said, "to have a natter".

And natter we did.

From the contributions there was a strong hope that the sense of Community that had built during the isolation would continue.

Initially people joined a Little Church to participate in the Sunday Eucharist Liturgy. The experience was different to the pre-lockdown weekly Sunday Liturgies. What was unique was that The Little Churches offered the chance to share personally on a deeper spiritual level, in prayer, seeking to understand the Word of God and create personal connections.

The Little Churches had tapped into the energy of the many groups that were in existence in the Parish and have been for years. On the New Website each group has their own dedicated page. This so aligned with the Draft of The Parish Structure Document says,

"Our parish Leadership supports these initiatives allowing their unique charisms to blossom. It is hoped that by facilitating and empowering these smaller communities, they, like living cells, both nurture and are sustained by the Body. We call them "our Ministries"

Meaningful Parish community - will come about when the many Ministries see themselves as unique constituent parts of the one Parish community – and are able to come together to celebrate and give thanks for this unity in diversity."

It was the hope of the gathering that the Little Churches may contribute in part to this Vision. We found the commitment, the openness, faith and the hope of those present an inspiration.

Little Churches may have been a response to a specific need, but it may also be an opportunity for a new model in our Parish. We would like them to be not only centres of formation and growth but truly Little Churches.

Watch this Space.....

Tim Gordon, John Kleinsman and John Lawson



Parish Executive Assistant

St Francis of Assisi is looking to employ a **Parish Executive Assistant** as part of their Ministry Team to assist in carrying out a new and collaborative model of leadership, pastoral ministry, and service. This person must be capable of meeting the liturgical, spiritual, educational, justice and pastoral needs of a vibrant parish that is living out the Church's mission in the world.

The Parish Executive Assistant is a critical position requiring both strategic and effective leadership to ensure that the financial and operational processes support and promote the Vision of the Parish, the mission of the Church and the needs of the local communities. Preferably this is a fulltime position but may be negotiable. If you would like to know more of this exciting initiative contact: tim.gordon@stfrancisohariu.nz

A personal reflection from Lockdown

I learnt the value of small things.

Like cycling home from work in the hospital on Saturday or Sunday afternoons seeing young parents with children-fathers with sons, mothers with daughters, novice cyclists whizzing down steep Ngaio hills. I wondered how they would make it back up!

I was less lonely on my street.

I lit a candle in my front window on the first evening to be in solidarity with friends in the Wairarapa and with my family in Ireland whom I deeply, deeply missed.

Every night afterwards, a candle appeared in my neighbour's window facing into my garden.

I felt connected.

At work several weeks before the COVID 19 pandemic fear gripped the outside world, we were planning and concerned, if not frightened.

We were frightened.

The team work, fast decision making, focus, flexibility and challenge drew us together as doctors, nurses, the whole health care team and managers.

As the number of COVID 19 deaths was so small, we were more concerned about the impact of visitor restrictions on patients particularly those who were dying.

In doing our daily rounds of patients, as doctors we realised we were also their visitors. We updated families by phone daily and several times per day.

I learnt the value of small things:

the sound of birds,

the sound of children,

the colour of blue sky

the quiet city streets when cycling home.

I felt less alone.

Life was in slower motion.

I give thanks for a good, kind friend who gave me an Easter bunny who sat on my window sill.

We called her "Cluas", the Irish word for "Ears"

Cluas looked out onto the world, listening.

Let us pray that we remember and give thanks,
for the ability to notice, be aware, feel deeply
that we retain the ability to listen with the eyes and ears of our hearts

A Thiarna eist linn

E Te Ariki

Let us pray to the Lord

Dr Sinead Donnelly, Wellington Hospital

1st Reconciliation

38 children and their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties, cousins and friends celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a packed church at Ss Peter & Pauls Church last Saturday.

The Spirit was evident during this wonderful celebration of love, forgiveness, kindness, family and community. Our children led the prayers, read the Prodigal Son and had completed art work for the church and foyer.

Felicity and a *young specially made up for the event* music group led the singing. **Jim Dooley and Eddie Condra** supported the reconciliation



process. The final highlight was the children teaching their families the actions to the song "These Hands". The Liturgy was followed by an afternoon tea.

A special thanks to the sacramental preparation team of **Sio Iaseto, Nicole Simson, Sophia Ting, Piki Boyles, Fiona Roberts and Helen Sligo and Kitty McKinley.**

The next part of the Johnsonville-Newlands based sacramental

programme begins on August 16th at 1pm in the Church hall at SS Peter and Paul's Johnsonville.

The Children will make their First Holy Communion on Sunday September 20th at a Mass time to be advised.

All parents and caregivers who had children involved in the First Reconciliation Programme will be e mailed these dates shortly. A full timetable will be provided the first week of Term III.

For information call Kitty or Sio or e mail the parish office: ohariuparish@xtra.co.nz.

The Weekly **Divine Mercy and Rosary Prayers** Meeting is back to St Andrew as normal at 6:30 PM Friday in the Chapel,

Last Sunday the Syro-Malabar community celebrated Mass in their own special way at St Andrew's Church in Newlands

In 2006, a group of about 27 families from Kerala, India, formed the St Mary's Wellington Kerala Catholic Community under the spiritual leadership of Fr Joseph Akkara. One of the main goals of forming SKCCW (St. Mary's Kerala Catholic Community, Wellington) was a desire to preserve and hand on the faith and ancestral traditions of the St Thomas Catholic Christians to the next generation, the most important of these



being the celebration of the Divine Liturgy or Qurbana in the Syro-Malabar rite, which is one of the Eastern Catholic rites.

Today the SKCCW is a vibrant community of about 500 families in the territory of Wellington Diocese. Many members of the community are professionals working in Healthcare and Information Technology. Pictured above

are **Fr Biju Xavier** - Chaplain, Syro Malabar Catholic Mission Wellington, **Fr Joy Raphael** and **Fr Tony Kattakayama**

Newlands Presbytery

Dear Parishioners,

We are very pleased to let you know that the Newlands presbytery has been let for six months to a family of 7 (including a very young baby) in urgent need of accommodation. This will give them time to get back on their feet. The family has been in emergency accommodation since early January this year. They came to us through Red Cross and Catholic Social Services.

We thank, in particular, the Newlands community for their presbytery and for their assistance and support on this occasion. We will look for an opportunity to introduce the family to some of our community, if the family is happy with this. In the meantime we would ask you to respect their privacy.

The family needs some storage space to store some furniture (kitchen chairs/a divan). If you can help with this or in some other way – or if you have any queries – please contact John Lawson on 021 616 031

In a recent survey Stella Maris (known in New Zealand as the Apostleship of the Sea) found that among seafarers COVID-19 had brought great anxiety about their financial situation, many had been stranded in foreign ports or on board ships for long periods of times, in some countries when they do get home they are treated as pariahs who might have Covid, and there are mental health issues developing from the anxiety of long periods at sea and worry about families. There are apostleship of the Sea chaplains in Auckland, Tauranga, Napier, Wellington and Lyttleton and they have been using every means possible to support seafarers on ships visiting our ports, including virtual support when seafarers are banned from going ashore. Please remember these essential but often out of sight workers on ships around the world. To help this cause visit <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/donate>



Cardinal John Dew

Parking at St Andrews Church

TOP CAR PARKS BY CHURCH

All these car parks including the one by the garage are now labeled for elderly and disabled parishioners.

GRASS AREA NEAR TWO DISABLED RAMPS ENTRANCE TO SIDE OF CHURCH.

Please beware if you are dropping elderly or disabled parishioners off at these ramps, the grass area can be slippery when wet.

CAR PARKS AT BACK OF CHURCH NEAR PRESBYTERY HOUSE The Presbytery House is now occupied with tenants, so please do not park in front of the presbytery garage and be mindful to allow easy access in/out of the garage for these tenants.

LIGHTS TO TOP/BOTTOM SIDE CAR PARKS

Upgrades to the lighting both inside and outside the Church will soon be underway watch this space....

Please advise a St Andrew's Committee (SAC) member if you have further concerns.

Engaged Encounter is a weekend experience for couples intending to be married. Remaining weekends for 2020 are 18 & 19 July and 14 & 15 November. Venue is Otari Parish presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington. Registrations close 2 weeks before.



For more details go to the website <http://www.cee-wellington.co.nz/> Phone Kate and Simon Olson. 04 801 6192 or email simonolsen@gmail.com

The **Coast to Coast Rosary for Life and Faith** will be held this year on Saturday 15th August at 3 pm. Please help lead or join a group in your parish or community. For more information, please go to www.coasttocoastrosary.co.nz or phone Clare 022 1912 886

Fr Kevin Head SM will be visiting St Andrew's and St Benedict's churches on the weekend of 1 and 2 August to offer subscriptions to the **Marist Messenger**. It costs \$50 per year for 11 issues. Great value for money!

No need to pay immediately. An account will be sent when any new subscriptions are processed."

Baptisms: We welcome into our Parish

Vanya Tiongson and William Nepe

who will be Baptised in our Parish this weekend



**Anointing Mass at Malvina Major in the Chapel
Tuesday 21 July 2,30pm. All welcome**

Pa Maria Marist Spirituality Centre - Revised Programme for 2020, with dates for the Winter Film Series, Spiritual Theology Course and Non-Residential Retreat. If you would like an emailed copy, please contact Brian Cummings SM at bgcummings@xtra.co.nz

Christian Meditation every Monday at 7pm, St Benedict's foyer. All welcome.

More information, contact Linda & Nick Polaschek ph 04 4797955.

JOSHUA FELLOWSHIP: Come and join other men for a cuppa, prayer and a talk on Thursday 16th July 2020 at 7:30pm (Note: fellowship from 7:00pm for 7:30pm start) In CONNOLLY HALL, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon (behind the Sacred Heart Cathedral). Speaker: Jack Ponting, our Joshua Newsletter Editor on "Gift of JOY, pure and simple "Want to know more? Ring Steve Ready 027-356-9555 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

18/19 July	Saturday 5pm St Andrews	Sunday 9am St Bens	Sunday 10.30am St Peter & Pauls
16th Sunday Ordinary Time			
MUSIC	Felicity & Friends	Music Group	TBA
GREETERS	Volunteers	Rosalie Andrewa	Oni Villanueva
			Monika Sorensen
1st PROCLAIMER	Jade Arboleda	Terry Marks	Nandita Srinivasa
2nd PROCLAIMER	Jade Arboleda	Christine Patete	Elizabeth Cranney
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL	Sandra De Leon	Rosalie Andrews	Lily Ong
OFFERTORY PROCESSION	Volunteers	Kalolo Family	Aspinall Family
MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	Kamala Rupasinghe	Judith Marks	Patrick Sy
		Beverley Telfar	Helen Cross
ALTAR SERVERS	Alec & Maxine	Ben & Alicia Houston	Yenul & Gerard
COLLECTORS	Volunteers	Volunteers	Martin Keene

MASS INTENTIONS

We ask for your prayers - Masses have been offered for

Antonia Dawson—RIP

Sebastian Nicholas, Pascal D'Souza – RIP Anniversary



Mass times 11/12 July

Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass St Andrews

Sunday 10.30am Mass St Peter & Paul's

Sunday 9am St Benedicts

St Peter & Paul's Church 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Friday: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Friday: 6.30pm
Divine Mercy in the Chapel

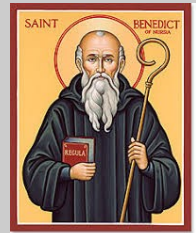
St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Mon: 9am Liturgy
7pm Meditation
Tues: 9am Liturgy
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Friday: 9am Liturgy
Saturday 9am Liturgy

Saturday 11th July is the Feast of St Benedict (480 - 547)

Benedict was born in Umbria, and studied in Rome; but he was unable to stomach the life of the city, and he became a solitary hermit at Subiaco. Benedict organised various small communities of monks and nuns in various places, including the great monastery of Monte Cassino. He drew up a set of rules to guide the communal life of monasteries. The Rule of St Benedict served as the foundation of practically every attempt at communal living ever since – and not only in religious communities.

Rule of St Benedict recognises that people aim at perfection but often fall well short of it, and aims to be a "rule for beginners" in which even the least perfect and least able can grow in spiritual stature. For those of us in the world, too, the Rule of St Benedict has much to say: it drags our eyes up to the stars but keeps our feet firmly on the ground; it calls us to perfection but keeps us sane.



Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville
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Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz
Facebook Group—St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

One Faith - Many Cultures

