

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH MASSES and other Liturgical Celebrations:

Daily morning Masses: **9.00am Monday to Saturday**

Saturday Vigil Mass: **6.00pm**

Sunday Masses: **8.30am - St. John of the Cross**

**9.30am - Holy Family**

Community Masses:

Samoan Community – **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11.00am**

Cook Islands – **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00am**

Myanmar Community – **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11.00am**

Tokelau – **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 11am at St. John of the Cross**

Multicultural Mass – **Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9.30am**

Sunday Adoration – **Every Sunday at 5.00pm**

Reconciliation – **At any time before and after Mass**

Baptism – **By appointment**

## PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** start at 5.00pm
2. **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** on Tuesday 3 September - 6pm at the presbytery
3. **Feast Day of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta - Holy Mass - 9.00am Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept followed by cup of tea after Mass at the school hall.**
4. **Sacramental Programme** - Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation - every Sunday from 3.00 – 4.00pm at the school hall.  
**No session on Sunday 1 Sept.**  
**Rehearsal dates** for Confirmation and First Holy Communion Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.
5. **Confirmation by Archbishop Paul Martin – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 9.30am.** Shared Lunch at the school hall after Mass. Please bring a plate to share.
6. **First Holy Communion – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September, Mass at 10.00am.**

# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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## TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

**Dear Parishioners: Kia orana, Greetings, Talofa lava, Malo ni, Mingalaba, Mauri, Ola, Namaste, Malo Lelei & Nibula.**

Today's first reading explains that religion is a Covenant relationship with a caring, providing, and protecting God, fostered by keeping His Commandments given through Moses. God gave Israel the Law so that the Israelites might keep their Covenant with Yahweh and thank Him for His love and fidelity to His Chosen People. The Law was also intended to keep them a united, holy, and intelligent nation, proud of their powerful, protective, single God.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 15) describes a person who practices true religion — blameless and just, thoughtful and honest in dealing with others.

In the second reading, St. James defines true religion as keeping the word of God and doing His will by helping the needy, the poor, and the weak in the community. He challenges Christians to become doers of the word, not merely hearers.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes true religion as serving God and all His children with a pure and holy heart. The original noble purpose was to sanctify the daily lives of the people, making them *"holy as God is holy"* (*"You are a priestly kingdom, a holy nation"* — Ex 19:6). Jesus uses the occasion as a teachable moment to give them the following lessons: 1) Don't teach human "rules" as dogmas of Faith. 2) Sincerity of heart, internal disposition, purity, and holiness are more important than mere external ritual observances. 3) Keep your heart holy as it is the source of sins, vices and evil habits. 4) External piety without internal holiness is hypocrisy

**Life messages: 1) We need to learn and keep the spirit of the Church's laws and ritual practices.** For example, our Sunday obligation is intended to allow us to worship God in the parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask His pardon for sins, to thank God for His blessings, and to receive Divine Life and strength from Him in Holy Communion. Our daily family prayers are meant to thank God for His blessings, to present the family's needs before God, to ask pardon for our sins, to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family, and to keep a close relationship with God.  
**2) Let us avoid the tendency to become "cafeteria Christians"** — that is, to choose certain Commandments and Church laws to follow, while ignoring the others as we choose certain food items and ignore others in a cafeteria.

## SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

### 1 Sept -22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1<sup>st</sup> R: Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 2, 6 - 8
- Responsorial Psalm: 34
- 2<sup>nd</sup> R: James 1: 17 – 18, 21 - 22, 27
- Gospel: Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23

### 8 Sept -23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1<sup>st</sup> R: Isaiah 35: 4 - 7
- Responsorial Psalm: 146
- 2<sup>nd</sup> R: James 2: 1 – 5
- Gospel: Mark 7: 31 – 37

## PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Parish - \$2,652.60

Building Fund - \$476.30

Maori Pastoral Care - \$875.10

*Generosity consists not the sum given, but the manner in which it is bestowed.*

*May God bless you always.*

## PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Holy Family is committed to the person of Jesus in his teaching. Therefore, we are called to live justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8) so that we might become effective witnesses of the Gospel.

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We will dedicate ourselves to live and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by words and actions. In following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each other, the example of their family life, we will come to true holiness. We will strive to imitate the Holy Family by:

- Being a loving, welcoming and forgiving community, fully alive in the spirit of Holy Family.
- Teaching our children, the Gospel way of life and encouraging them always to share fully in the life of our Parish.
- Celebrating the Eucharist as a joyful remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for us.
- Being a community of prayer that reaches out and open to other faith communities.
- Being an "Oasis" of hope, love and mercy to God's children.
- Being witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus, strengthened by our cultural diversity.



## Season of Creation Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

"To hope and act with creation means above all to join forces; to walk together with all people of good will...to extend this harmony between human beings to creation.... with responsibility for a humane and

integral ecology." ('To Hope and Act with Creation' Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024)

**Action** – Join forces with a local or international initiative taking responsibility for a humane and integral ecology.

## FATHERS' DAY:

Happy Fathers' Day to all in our Parish who are fathers, also to Father Isaac and Father Nicholas, and to those who are both fathers and mothers to their children or grandchildren. May you be richly blessed in the wonderful task assigned to you by God the Father.

While Fathers' Day is not a specifically Christian feast it does give us the opportunity to celebrate the fathers and father-figures in our lives. God can use this special day to draw us closer to Himself - the one true Father who remains faithful and full of unconditional love. It's a day of mixed emotions for those whose loving father has gone to God and particularly for those who never knew their dad. For those of us who can look back on having a caring dad we can only be grateful - to our dads and also to our God who made them such an important part of our lives.

Some of you have heard this story before, but it is worth repeating for Fathers' Day. In the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 one runner was considered to be unbeatable in his race. He'd won all his races leading up to the Games and a gold medal was considered to be his. He set off strongly in the race but then felt his Achilles' tendon snap and he couldn't run any further. He was a pitiful sight trying to hobble to the finish line when suddenly a man came from the stands, jumped over the security barriers, went to his side and put his arm around the boy to help him to the finish line. It was the boy's father who couldn't leave his son to face the hardest moment in his sports career on his own. The gesture was greatly appreciated by the boy who felt a renewed energy to get to the line with his father's help. The article where I read this story likened the father to God our Father who "puts his arm around us" in times of difficulty. He's there with us all the time but in times of trouble he's especially close.

## Prayer for Fathers:

Lord, thank You so much for fathers and all the sacrifices they make out of love. When they feel tired, overwhelmed and weak please give them strength to keep going and the courage to stand strong.

Heavenly Father, bless all the dads with Your wisdom, patience and love. Guide them to be a source of strength and support for their families.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of fathers. May they feel appreciated, valued and loved. Fill their hearts with Your peace and joy.

Heavenly Father, may You grant all dads the courage to lead by example, the wisdom to teach with kindness, and the love to nurture unconditionally.

Dear God, we pray for the fathers who live on in our memories. Thank you for the blessing they were in our lives and guide their families with compassion and grace.

Lord, bless every father and father figure today. May their lives be filled with joy, their hearts with love and their days with Your divine guidance. Amen

Sr Anne Phibbs