

HOLY FAMILY PARISH MASSES and other liturgical celebrations:

Daily morning Masses: 9.00 am Monday to Saturday

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6.00 pm

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

9.30 am – Holy Family Church

Community Masses:

Samoan Community – 3rd Sunday at 11.00 am

Cook Islands – 2nd Sunday at 11.00 am

Myanmar Community – 4th Sunday at 11.00 am

Tokelau – 4th Sunday, 11 am at St. John of the Cross

Multicultural Mass – 31st August at 9.30 am, by Archbishop Paul

Reconciliation – 8.00 am – 8.45 am Monday – Saturday

Baptism – By appointment

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

169 Mungavin Avenue, Porirua.

PO Box 53001, Porirua 5024

Ph: 04 237-8674 **E:** office@holyfamilyparish.nz

W: www.holyfamilyparish.nz

For Emergencies, please contact:

Fr. Isaac Songa (Parish Priest): 021 089-05555

Fr. Nicholas Phone Myint (Assistant Priest): 021 090-62933



EASTER SUNDAY, YEAR C
20th April 2025



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

The Significance of Easter

Easter, meaning “the feast of fresh flowers,” is the most significant and central celebration in the Christian faith for four key reasons. First, it commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the cornerstone of Christianity. This miraculous event affirms Jesus as the Son of God and validates Christian preaching and belief, as emphasized by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:14 and Romans 10:9. The Resurrection stands as the central theme of the Apostolic message or kerygma.

Second, Easter assures believers of their own future resurrection. Jesus’ words to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life...” (John 11:25-26), promise eternal life to those who have faith in Him. This belief brings personal comfort and a hopeful perspective on life and death.

Third, Easter offers profound hope and encouragement amidst the struggles and sufferings of life. In a world filled with pain and uncertainty, Easter reminds Christians that life has meaning and that through the power of the Risen Lord, they can overcome temptation, fear, and despair.

Fourth, Easter enriches the meaning of prayer. It strengthens the belief in the real and living presence of Jesus — in the Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven. This presence deepens both personal and communal prayer, affirming that Christ hears and responds to His people.

From these truths arise important life applications. Christians are called to live as “Resurrection people,” rising above sin, despair, and negative habits. The awareness of Christ’s constant presence within and around them encourages disciplined living — controlling thoughts, behaviours, and desires in alignment with Christian values.

This realization also leads to reverence for one’s body as a temple of the Risen Lord, promoting purity and the rejection of harmful addictions. Furthermore, recognizing Christ in others inspires acts of kindness, respect, and humble service. Ultimately, Christians are called to be transparent witnesses of the Risen Lord — radiating His love, mercy, compassion, and sacrificial spirit in their daily lives. Easter is not just an event to be celebrated but a way of life to be embraced.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

- Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
No Adoration Easter Sunday, resuming next Sunday at 5.00 pm
- Altar Servers Session:** Every 1st and 4th Sunday 3.00 pm afternoon.
- ADW Marriage Preparation Course 2025:** Sundays 8 & 15 June; 7 & 14 September; 2 & 9 November. marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz
- Rebate letters for 2024/2025 Planned Giving Envelopes including Automatic Payments** are available for collection in the foyer.
- 2025/2026 Planned Giving Envelopes** are also available in the foyer for collection. If you would like to start Planned Giving please contact the Parish Office to discuss office@holyfamilyparish.nz or 04 2378674
- Novena to Divine Mercy** starts Good Friday 2.45 pm, and continues each day at 3 pm until Divine Mercy Sunday.



This Easter Octave week Fr. John O'Connor will offer daily encouragements using the Easter Gospel readings for each day

Try this as an Easter Retreat in Daily Life
at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

An opportunity to experience the heart of Christian faith in a few minutes each day

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR C

20 April EASTER SUNDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st R: Acts 10:34,37-43 Responsorial Psalm: 118 2nd R: 1 Corinthians 5: 6 - 8 Gospel: John 20: 1 - 9 	VIGIL READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lulani Siemsen Maria Logologo Helen John Tina Tiumalu Greg McGirr EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sr Hannahri Sr Donna Grace 	9.30 AM READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felise Maiava Gemma Vailahi EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sa Tovi'o Tuifaasisina Masoe Lapana Tualai 	ST JOHN READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracie Etuale William Nobelen EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iutita Mallon Bernadette Banez Ine Etuale
27 April 2nd SUNDAY of EASTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st R: Acts 5:12 - 16 Responsorial Psalm: 118 2nd R: 1 Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19 Gospel: John 20: 19 – 31. 	VIGIL READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debbie Brighouse Maria Hammond EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mereturia Akavi, Malia Anamani Anthony Nguyen 	9.30 AM READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patricia Setefano Paul Setefano EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria N Khum Vaueli Tolovaa Kevin Schwalger 	ST JOHN READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernadette Banez Gerry Mallon EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Nobelen Iutita Mallon Etuale Etuale

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 13 APRIL 2025

Parish - \$3068.40

Building Fund - \$ 820.40

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

May God bless you always.

Easter Blessings

May the risen Lord bless you abundantly and bring lots of peace, happiness, healing and health to you and to all your families.

May this Easter remind us all that miracles exist, love conquers all, and every ending is just the beginning of something beautiful.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Parish Pastoral Council and committees, Legion of Mary, Third Order, Children's and Youth Ministries, the community choirs, those who arrange the flowers, clean the church, maintain the grounds of the church, and all those who give their time to participate in our vibrant parish.

Your Priests thank all who have supported Holy Family Parish this year.



He is Risen

RESURREXIT SICUT DIXIT

When I was in the Novitiate many years ago we learned some wonderful old hymns and motets. One of these, which was both majestic and joyous, is in my mind at the moment:

**RESURREXIT sicut dixit; RESURREXIT SICUT DIXIT -
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

RESURREXIT sicut dixit is an ancient Latin saying which means “HE IS RISEN, as He said”. It is both an announcement of historical fact and a proclaiming of our own personal faith in the Resurrection of the Son of God from the dead. The phrase comes from St Matthew’s gospel where the angel explained to the women at the tomb “He is not here. He is risen as He said. Go quickly to tell the disciples that He is risen from the dead.” He IS risen emphasises that Christ is alive today.

“Resurrexit sicut dixit” is also a line in a 12th century hymn to Mary, the Regina Coeli, which is part of the prayer of the Church from Easter until Pentecost. “Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia! The Son you were chosen to bear has risen as He said. Pray to God for us, alleluia!”

As we enter into the mystery of Easter let us ponder the words of Pope Francis:

“At Easter, God finally reveals God’s glory: God takes away the last veil and astonishes us as never before. We discover, in fact, that God’s glory is all love: pure love, mad and unthinkable, beyond every limit and measure..... True glory is the glory of love, because it is the only one that gives life in the world.” (Pope Francis).

May Easter’s stream of hidden meaning and promise, and its many blessings, flow into a waiting world desperate for signs of hope and love in the midst of so much that is dark and fragile. May the Resurrection of Christ inspire our faith and renew our hope.

“He is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

Sr. Anne Phibbs