

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 – **1st and 3rd Sundays at 11.00am**

Cook Islands – **2nd Sunday at 11.00am**

Myanmar Community – **4th Sunday at 11.00am**

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

Multicultural Mass – **Every 5th Sunday at 9.30am**

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

Reconciliation – **8.00am – 8.45am Monday – Saturday**

Baptism – **By appointment**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH



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For Emergencies, please contact:

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

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C 23rd February, 2025

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

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5.00pm.
2. **Liturgy Committee Meeting:** Tuesday 25 March 6pm at the Presbytery
3. **Session for All Readers:** Saturday 1st March 10.30 – 12.00pm at Holy Family School.
4. **Reconciliation:**
Fr Isaac and Fr Nicholas will be available for Confession from 8.00 am – 8.45am Monday to Saturday.
5. **Community Masses** will resume in March.
6. **Children's Ministry:** Every Sunday at 9.00am

ARCHDIOCESE NOTICES

Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Course

Love is a Decision'. Register online now for the upcoming course, **Sundays 2 & 9 March 2025**, St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie – spaces filling up fast! Couples are encouraged to attend the course well before their wedding date. The next course is in June. For queries, please email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

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.

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR C

23 Feb. 7th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

- 1st R: 1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
- Responsorial Psalm: 103
- 2nd R: 1 Corinthians 15: 45 - 49.
- Gospel Luke 6: 27 - 38

2 Mar. 8th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

- 1st R: Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7
- Responsorial Psalm: 92
- 2nd R: 1 Corinthians 15: 54 - 58.
- Gospel Luke 6: 39 - 45

Scripture lessons – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first reading shows us how David made the right choice, respecting God's anointed king by forgiving his offenses, while Saul continued to make the wrong choices, perpetuating his own misery in seeking his revenge. In the Responsorial Psalm, Ps 103, the Psalmist reminds us of the mercy of God and His compassion which we should practice in our choices. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us how the "First Adam" made a wrong choice of disobedience, bringing death into the world, whereas Jesus, the "Second Adam," made the right choice of fulfilling his Father's saving plan for mankind by accepting acute suffering and a heinous death. [Today's Gospel \(Luke 6:27-38\)](#) gives us Jesus' revolutionary moral teaching about correct choices in our human relationships, based on the necessity of our following the "Golden Rule" and our obligation to behave like the children of a loving, forgiving, merciful, and compassionate Heavenly Father. Our relationships in our communities become truly Christian when we follow the Golden Rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you," as Jesus amplifies it, obeying the additional commands of radical Christian love we are to exercise as God's children (and Jesus' adopted brothers and sisters), "Love your enemies... Do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you." Jesus orders us to love our enemies and to be merciful and compassionate to everyone as God our Father is loving, merciful, and compassionate. He concludes by instructing us to stop judging others and start forgiving all who offend us.

Life Messages:

1) We need to practice the Golden Rule in its full form: The Golden Rule asks us to do to others what we would like them to do to us. If we obey, loving others and expressing that love by loving words and deeds, we will start receiving the same love from others in higher intensity. Further, if we want others to forgive our offenses, our words of criticism, and our thoughtless judgments against them, then we should start forgiving their offenses against us and start appreciating their good qualities while encouraging them and supporting them in their needs.

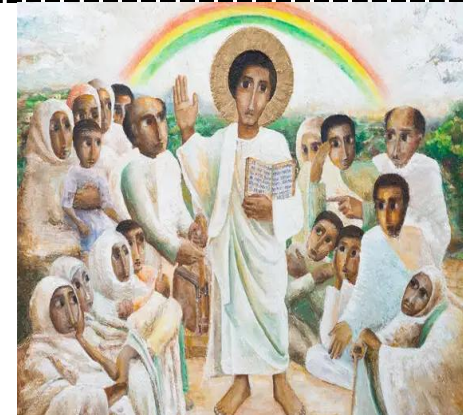
2) We need to pray for the strength to forgive. At every Mass we pray the "Our Father", asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. Our challenge is to overcome our natural inclination to hate family members, co-workers, neighbours and all who offend us. To meet that challenge, we need to ask God for the strength to forgive each other. We must forgive, because only forgiveness truly heals us. If we remember how God has forgiven us, it will help us forgive others.

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

Parish – \$2,318.20
Building Fund – \$473.10

Thank you and may God reward you for your generosity!

This is an icon commissioned by CAFOD in the UK for the Jubilee. It is by a young Ethiopian Mulugela Araya and it depicts the scene described by St Luke (Ch 4 16-21) of Jesus reading the text on which the jubilee is based:



The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has sent me to proclaim the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, to restore sight to the blind

To set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

In an icon everything has meaning and much prayer goes into the painting process. Here are a few things to note in this icon:

- ✚ The crowd is composed of men women and children, of old and young. The people are totally engaged with the Word of God. All eyes are huge and are fixed on Jesus.
- ✚ Jesus looks out at the world. His gaze includes not just this crowd but all mankind, and is for all time.
- ✚ The woman with the stick represents those who are often overlooked by society such as the elderly, the vulnerable, those with a disability.
- ✚ The Golden halo shows that Jesus is Divine, the Son of God.
- ✚ Jesus' right hand is raised to show that he is teaching.
- ✚ The leather bag close to Jesus is a bag used in Ethiopia to protect the Bible.
- ✚ The script Jesus is reading is an ancient Ethiopian liturgical language.
- ✚ The rainbow is the symbol of hope, a sign of God's covenant with mankind.

Pope Francis has given us a way to bring hope to the world when he said 'By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves; we want to sing of hope ... and reawaken in every heart the joy and courage to embrace life to the full.'

by Sr. Anne Phibbs