

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 – 3th 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

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For Emergencies, please contact:

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FIFTH WEEK OF LENT, YEAR C

6th April 2025

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

Central Theme: The central message of today's readings is God's mercy and steadfast love, encouraging us to extend the same forgiveness to others. God is always ready to forgive, restore, and give sinners a second chance. Therefore, we should avoid self-righteousness and condemnation, recognizing that God calls everyone to conversion and redemption. The first reading highlights God's mercy in forgiving His people and leading them back from exile, reminding us that we, too, are forgiven. The second reading presents Paul as an example of transformation through faith. Once a sinner, he was changed by his love for Christ and desired to share in both His sufferings and resurrection. His life exemplifies the Gospel message: "Sin no more."

The Gospel recounts the story of Jesus forgiving a sinful woman. When the Pharisees bring her before Him to be condemned, Jesus challenges them: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." This forces them to reflect on their own faults, and they walk away. Jesus upholds both justice and mercy—He acknowledges the woman's sin but chooses to forgive rather than punish. This passage teaches that God's forgiveness is endless, and we, too, must seek His mercy while offering it to others.

Life Lessons 1. Becoming Forgiving and Ready for Reconciliation

Jesus demonstrated boundless mercy, even sacrificing His life for sinners. However, we often act like the Pharisees, eager to judge others while ignoring our own sins. Many condemn individuals like unmarried mothers, alcoholics, and drug addicts, forgetting Jesus' command not to judge. Instead, we should acknowledge our own sins, seek God's forgiveness, and extend mercy to others. True Christian living means hating sin but loving the sinner, guiding them toward Jesus.

Life Lessons 2. Avoiding Judgment of Others

We have no right to judge others, as we are often guilty of the same faults. Our judgments are biased and fail to consider the circumstances leading to sin. Only God, who knows people's hearts, can judge fairly. Instead of condemning, we should show mercy, as we ourselves need God's forgiveness. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 11:31, "If we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment." By recognizing our need for mercy and extending forgiveness to others, we reflect God's love and help lead others toward Him.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

- Sunday Adoration - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Every Sunday at 5.00 pm.
- Stations of the Cross in English:** Every Friday 6.30 pm during the Season of Lent.
- Lights on for You:** 9 April 2025 6pm – 7pm final session. **An opportunity for Confession on every Wednesday during Lent.**
- Children's Ministry:** Every Sunday at 9.00 am
- Altar Servers Session:** Every 1st and 4th Sunday 3.00 pm afternoon.
- Chrism Mass:** 16 April 2025 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon, Wellington
- Readers practice:** 14 April 2025, 6.00 pm. All Easter Triduum Readers please attend.
- ADW Marriage Preparation Course 2025:** Sundays 8 & 15 June; 7 & 14 September; 2 & 9 November. marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

Pope Francis, Angelus, 20 March 2022.

"From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world." (Laudato Si' #99)

Action: Just as Christ was able to see beyond sin and condemnation, so we are called to look for the hidden depths at work in us and around us. Take some time this week to look for and find a hidden mystery at work in the natural world around you.

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR C

6 April FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st R: Isaiah 43: 16 – 21 Responsorial Psalm: 126 2nd R: Philippians 3: 8 – 14 Gospel John 8: 1 – 11 	VIGIL READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg McGirr Epi McGirr EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Nguyen Nuufou Iendinning Tuifaasisina Masoe 	9.30 AM READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mere Akavi Aleki Patelesio EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sr Donna Grace Ine Etuale Akenese Tana 	ST JOHN READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerry Mallon Bernadette Banez EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faialofa Antonio Etuale Etuale Lagi Tuimavave
13 April PASSION / PALM SUNDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st R: Isaiah 50: 4-7 Responsorial Psalm: 22 2nd R: Philippians 2: 6 - 11 Gospel Luke 22: 14 - 23 	VIGIL READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marie Tago Megan Akavi EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Schwalger Maria N Khum 	9.30 AM READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonita Tasele Malia Perez EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isa Lokeni Anthony Nguyen Etuale Etuale 	ST JOHN READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faialofa Antonio Lua Tuimavave EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerry Mallon John Antonio Lagi Tuimavave

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY, 30 March 2025

Parish - \$ 2788.20
Building Fund - \$ 777.00

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.

A BLESSING ON OUR HOLY FAMILY PARISH

May the God of strength be with us, holding us in strong hands:
And may we be the sacrament of God's strength to those whose hands we hold.

May the blessing of strength be on us.

May the God of gentleness be with us, caressing us with sunlight, rain and wind:

May God's gentleness shine through us to warm all who are hurt and lonely.

May the blessing of gentleness be with us.

May the God of wonder be with us, enchanting our senses, filling our hearts,
Giving us wide-open eyes for seeing the splendour in the humble and the majestic.

May we open the eyes and hands and hearts of the blind and the insensitive.
May the blessing of wonder be on us.

May the God of compassion be with us, holding us close when we are weary and alone:

May we be the warm hands and eyes of compassion for others when they reach out to us in need.

May the blessing of compassion be on us.

May the God of patience be with us.

May God's patience with all the young who fall from small heights

And the old who fall from greater heights, be our patience.

May the blessing of patience be on us.

May the God of Love be with us - listening to us, giving Godself to us.

May God's love in us light fires of faith and hope:

May the fires glow in our eyes and meet God's love glowing back in the eyes of others.

May the blessing of love - the blessing of friendship - be on us.

May God - Father, Son and Spirit - be within us drawing us ever nearer,
Speaking to us of unity, showing us the Holy Family as our best example of true community.

May the blessing of community arise from within us, radiate around us and remain forever.

May we all act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Sr. Anne Phibbs