

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 Thursday – Saturday

Baptism – By appointment

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

World Children's Day

25th May 2025

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

God's Abiding Presence

Today's readings emphasize the profound impact of God's abiding presence within His Church and in each believer. The first reading from Acts demonstrates how the Holy Spirit, residing in the early Church, guided the apostles in resolving a crucial issue regarding the inclusion of Gentiles into the Christian community. This guidance preserved the unity and integrity of the Church. The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer for all nations to acknowledge and praise God, reflecting a vision of global unity under divine guidance. In the second reading from Revelation, the Church is depicted as the New Jerusalem, replacing the physical presence of God in the Temple. This holy city symbolizes a community unified in love, with the victorious Jesus dwelling in every member. The Gospel passage reinforces this by portraying the Holy Spirit as a divine Teacher and Advocate, who brings peace and joy to believers. Jesus assures his followers that the Spirit will teach and remind them of all truths, offering hope and guidance.

The life messages drawn from these readings are twofold. First, believers are encouraged to remain conscious of God's presence within them. This awareness helps navigate life's uncertainties and strengthens hope and courage. The Holy Spirit inspires believers to seek God's Word, live in peace, and love others. Daily prayer and a deepening relationship with Jesus are essential to receive these spiritual gifts. The Mass, especially through Scripture and Communion, becomes a powerful encounter with God under the Spirit's direction. Second, the readings remind us that we are never truly alone. In a world plagued by isolation and disconnected relationships, the indwelling presence of Jesus offers companionship and purpose. Accepting Jesus into our lives dispels loneliness and transforms sorrow into joy. By sharing this divine relationship with others, we can help foster unity and meaning in their lives. The Eucharist stands as a celebration of Jesus' sacrifice and a source of strength to live in the Spirit. In recognizing and embracing this presence, we are called to embody and spread God's love, peace, and unity in our communities.

PARISH NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **Sunday Adoration:** Every Sunday at 5.00 pm
2. **Children's Ministry:** Every Sunday at 9.30 am.
3. **Liturgy Committee Meeting:** 27 May 6 pm after the Rosary in the Presbytery.
4. **Thanksgiving Mass for the end of May:** 30 May at 6 pm after the Rosary, please bring your own candles. Following Mass, shared meal will be in the hall. Please also bring a plate.
5. **Parish Youth Gathering Session:** Saturday 14 June 10.00 am to 12.00 pm in the School Hall.
6. **Prayer and Fasting for Peace and the relief of suffering of children worldwide:** 24-hour prayer and fasting on Friday, 30th May, for peace and to support children suffering from starvation, injury, and death due to war. Participants may also donate to Caritas <https://www.caritas.org.nz/holyland>.
7. **Pentecost Celebration: Part of the Archdiocesan Celebration of the Jubilee Year:** 8 June 2025 Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon. Afternoon programme from 2.30 pm with shared dinner (bring a plate) followed by Evening Mass at 7.00 pm.

World Youth Day 2027

The Archdiocese of Wellington is seeking expressions of interest for attendance at World Youth Day 2027. The 2027 event is expected to be held in Seoul, South Korea - and Pope Leo XIV is supposed to be there, too! It should be a terrific time to strengthen faith and meet other Catholics from around the world.

To register your interest, please go to Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington New Zealand website.

SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR C

25 May 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st R: Acts 15:1 – 2, 22 - 29 Responsorial Psalm: 67 2nd R: Apocalypse 12: 10 – 14, 22 – 23 Gospel: John 14: 23 - 29. 	VIGIL READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kalala Stanley Marie Tago EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akenese Tana Tuifaasisina Masoe Isa Lokeni 	9.30 AM READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Hammond Vaueli Tolovaa EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sr Hannahri Sa Tovi'o Afuamua Tago 	ST JOHN READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerry Mallon Ine Etuale EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Nobelen Iutita Mallon Faialofa Antonio
1 June ASCENSION OF THE LORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st R: Acts 1:1 – 11 Responsorial Psalm: 47 2nd R: Ephesians 1: 17 - 23 Gospel: Luke 24:46 - 53 . 	VIGIL READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen John Debbie Brighthouse EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ina Tengarua, Etuale Etuale, Anthony Nguyen 	9.30 AM READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mere Akavi Kevin Schwalger EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sr Hannahri Bonita Tasele Maria N Khum 	ST JOHN READERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tina Tiumalu Nellson Tiumalu EUCARISTIC MINISTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Antonio Ine Etuale Bernadette Banez

PARISH COLLECTIONS FOR 18 MAY 2025

Parish - \$ 1856.20
Building Fund - \$ 622.20

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

May God bless you always.

Holy Family Parish Vision and Mission

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.

Our Mission

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 an "Oasis" of hope, love and mercy to God's children.
- Being witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus, strengthened by our cultural diversity.

EASTERTIDE

You may have noticed that these Sundays are not called Sundays after Easter but Sundays of Easter. That is because Eastertide is celebrated as one joyous Feast which lasts for 50 days leading up to the very special Feast of Pentecost which this year is celebrated next Sunday on June 8th.

In the Northern Hemisphere Eastertide coincides with spring and that is why we have symbols of Easter that seem to have very little to do with the Resurrection, but there are connections. Spring is the season of rebirth, of coming to life again as Jesus did. The rabbit is a symbol of fertility and new life. The egg is a wonderful symbol of Christ's tomb especially if a chicken (new life) emerges from it. The Easter egg also symbolizes our ability to break out of the hardened protection we can surround ourselves with.

For me these few lines of poetry bring together, beautifully, Eastertide and spring:

'Loveliest of trees, the cherry now is hung with bloom along the bough

And stands about the woodland ride, wearing white for Eastertide." A E Houseman

White, the liturgical colour for Eastertide, symbolizes glory, innocence and purity. At Eastertide we celebrate the gift of victory over every fall we have ever experienced.

Yesterday I took a visitor to Palmerston North to visit our two Brigidines who live there. One Sister will be 90 in a few months and the other will be 102 in October. My Australian visitor was greatly impressed by these Sisters and also by the beauty of the countryside as we drove to Palmerston North. We commented about how lucky we are to be able to travel in such a peaceful, beautiful country and contrasted our fate with that of those in war-torn countries. There is so much we have to be thankful for. Sr Celie was very impressed that the two Sisters, in spite of their ages, continue to be "on mission". Our 101 year-old, Sister Helena, has just come out of hospital but she was delighted to welcome visitors. During our conversation she told us that she was given the following prayer on her 13th birthday in 1936 and that she has said it every day ever since, ie for the past 89 years.

PRAYER OF TRUST:

My fate is in Thy hands, My God, I wish it there.

My heart, my health, my life I leave entirely to Thy care.

My fate is in Thy hands, whatever it may be.

Pleasant or painful, bright or dark, as best may seem to Thee.

My fate is in Thy hands. Why should I doubt or fear?

My Father's heart will never cause His child a needless fear.

Sr Anne Phibbs

