



Newsletter No 9: 3 March 2019
Eighth Sunday of the Year

A Warm Welcome to Our Parish Family of Marlborough

We the people of Te Whetu O Te Moana, Star of the Sea Parish, are committed by our baptism in Christ, to share our living faith, and make God visible, in joyful union with all people, by our actions in the community. (Parish Mission Statement)

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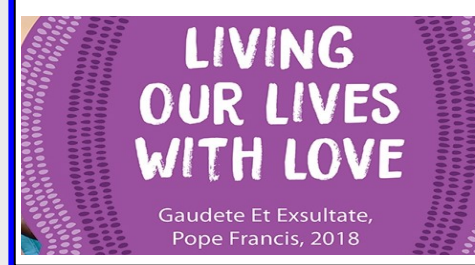
Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
 Last Tuesday the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) discussed the Policies of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference and the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes NZ concerning the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Prayer for Children
 Lord Jesus, thank you that you take children into your arms and bless them. May every child know the deep peace and love of being held close to you. We especially ask you to protect all unborn children who are impoverished, neglected, and abused. May we your people, open our hearts to bring compassion into their lives. Help us to support and encourage families and communities in the love and protection of their children. May children everywhere grow up feeling accepted, safe, and loved. Amen.

One of those is a Code of Conduct for all employees and volunteers in parishes. A newer requirement is that of gaining a Police Check for all volunteers. That had already been in place for Parish employees, including priests. Throughout Lent, all Volunteers will be asked to read and sign the Code of Conduct, and to complete the Police Check. While this might seem bothersome, due to the misbehavior of some clergy and volunteers in the past, both in churches and other organisations, this is now required so as to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable adults in our sphere of influence.

Kāri Karakia
 E te Ariki e Hēhu, e whakawhetai atu ana ki ā koe e toro atu nei i āu ringaringa ki ngā tamariki, ā, whakapaingia ana rātou e koe. Kia mātau ia tamaiti ki te hōhonutanga o te rangimārie me te aroha o tōu nā tauawhi. Tērā te hunga kare anō kia whānau mai, ērā e noho rawakore ana, ērā e noho pōhara ana me ērā kua tūkinotia, manaakitia rā e koe. Mā mātou, mā tōu iwi e whakapuare atu i te ngākau pūaroa ki a rātou. Awhinatia mai mātou ki te tau-toko, ki te akiaki i ngā whānau me ngā hapori i te aroha me te manaakitanga o ā rātou tamariki. Kia noho oranga ngākau, kia noho haumarua, kia arohaina ngā tamariki i a rātou e pakeke haere ana i ngā wāhi katoa. Āmene.

Stewardship is our Mission
John Pearce CP



Readings for Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (C)

Sun 3rd: Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7 1Corinthians 15:54-58 Luke 6:39-45

Psalm Response: Lord it is good to give thanks to you

Mon 4th: Ecclesiasticus 17:24-29 Mark 10:17-27
Tues 5th: Ecclesiasticus 35:1-12 Mark 10:28-31
6th: Ash Wednesday. Joel 2:12-18; 2Cor 5:20-6:2; Matt. 6:1-6,16-18.
Thu 7th: Deut. 30:15-20 Luke 9:22-25 **After Ash Wednesday**
Fri 8th: Isaiah 58:1-9 Matthew 9:14-15
Sat 9th: Isaiah 58:9-14 Luke 5:27-32
Sun 10th: First Week of Lent
 Deut 26:4-10 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13

Our Liturgy Plan
 When a priest is not available, Word & Communion will be led by parishioners.

Blenheim
Tues: 9.30am Mass
Wed: 12.05pm Mass
Thurs: 9.30 am Mass
Except 1st Thurs: Bethsaida **10.30am**
Fri: 11am Adoration
 11.30 Reconciliation
 12.05pm Mass
Sat: 9.30am Mass
 Reconciliation to follow
Sat: 5pm Mass
Sun: 10am Mass
 (2nd & 5th Sunday Word & Communion)

Havelock
Sunday: 11am
 (4th Sunday Word & Communion)

Kaikoura
Tues: 9.30am
Wed: 9.30am
Wed: 7pm Rosary
Thurs: 5.15pm
Fri: 9.30am
Sun: 9.30am
 (1st & 3rd Sunday Word & Communion)

Picton
Wed: 9am Mass
Sun: 9am Mass
 (4th Sunday: Word & Communion)

Renwick
3rd Sunday 5pm Mass

Seddon
Sun: 8am Mass
 (2nd & 5th Sunday Word & Communion)

Ward
4th Sunday 4pm Mass

Baptisms
 Celebrated during weekend Mass or other times.
Marriages
 Marriages celebrated in all our Churches. Please contact the Parish Office.



March 10: Vinnies BBQ
 There will be a free BBQ put on after the 10am Youth Liturgy on Sunday 10 March. This will be supported by the St Vincent de Paul society and run by their BBQ Crew. It is simply to say thank you for your support and to share the love!.

Food for Faith for Lent:
 Sign up to receive daily email encouragements at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

March 9: St Mary's School Gala
 10am -2pm, a great day out with a lot of bargains and a chance to support one of our schools. You can contribute to the day by donating books, toys, clothing, preserves, baking, plants, fruits & vegs. **Reminder:** there is no white elephant stall as there was a garage sale late last year.

Parish Calendar

March
1 .. Top of the South Schools Commissioning Mass @ St Mary's (5.30pm) with Cardinal John. All welcome. No midday Mass today.

2 .. Breakfast with Cardinal John
3 .. Reconciliation Prep begins.
3 .. Sounds Stewardship Group.
5 .. Wairau Stewardship Group.

6 .. Ash Wednesday Liturgies
7 ... St Mary's Pre School: Family sausage sizzle (5-7pm)
8 .. Christian Ministers Retreat Day at Havelock.

9 .. St Mary's School Gala (10-4pm)
11-12 .. John at Provincial Council meeting in Sydney.
11 .. Kaikoura Stewardship Grp
12 .. Wellington Formation Day for Parish Teams
19 .. Finance & Property Committee
20 .. Blenheim Sacrament of Reconciliation (7pm)
25 .. St Mary's Youth Committee
26 .. Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
30-31 .. Retreat Days with Marist Laity

April
2 .. Wairau Stewardship Group
4 .. BLN Christian Ministers Assoc
7 .. Sounds Stewardship Group
8 .. Kaikoura Stewardship Group
11 .. St Mary's Pre School AGM & Elections
14 .. Palm Sunday
15 .. Chrism Mass at St Mary's

Parish Lenten Retreats
 This year we have two weekends where retreat days will be offered to anyone who wants to come, Catholic or other Christians. They are on the two weekends before Holy Week. Registration would be appreciated for planning.

March 29-31st: Fr Chris Skinner SM and Bev

The Marist Laity Team is offering these reflection days
Saturday: Kaikoura 9.30-1pm
 Follows 9.30am Mass
Sunday: Picton 9.30-1pm
 Follows 9.30am Mass

April 5-6: Reflection on The Passion with Fr Denis Travers CP

Denis is coming to us for the weekend, coming from Auckland where he led a retreat to Passionist Companions the previous weekend.

Saturday: Blenheim, 9.30-1pm
 Follows 9.30am Mass
Sunday: Kaikoura, 9.30-1pm
 Follows 9.30am Mass

Parish News & Events

Kiribati Singers
 This weekend we welcome our Kiribati Community who will sing at the 10am Mass. Please make them welcome.

St Mary's School Mass
 This weekend also we welcome our children and families from St Mary's School who will be assisting with the 10am Mass. Welcome back to a new year.

Tongan Chaplain
 Last year the Wellington based Tongan Chaplain Fr Sanele visited the parish every few months for a weekend of encounters and Mass with their community. This year he has offered to come on 3rd Sundays of the most months, and to assist with the 10am Mass. This allows Pat or John to go to Kaikoura, offering Mass for this community three times a month.

March 3: Children's Sacrament Preparation for Reconciliation
 Family Preparation Sessions begin after Masses today in Kaikoura and Blenheim. In registering, please provide a copy of Baptism Certificate. They are for three Sundays.

Weekend Mass Times

8th Sunday of the Year (1)
Sat Mar 2
 Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat
Sun Mar 3
 Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr John
 Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat
 Kaikoura (9.30) **W&C**
 Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr John



Havelock (11) Mass/Fr Pat
Ash Wednesday
 Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John
 Blenheim (12.05) Mass/Fr Pat
 Blenheim School (2pm) Service/John
 Blenheim (6pm) Mass/Denis
 Picton (6pm) Mass/Fr Pat
 Kaikoura (7pm) **W&C**
 Seddon (7pm) Ecumenical Service /Fr John

1st Sunday of Lent (2)
 Guest Speakers from Caritas NZ at Blenheim and Seddon

Sat Mar 9
 Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat
Sun Mar 10
 Seddon (8am) **W&C**
 Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat
 Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John
 Blenheim (10am) **W&C**
 Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr Julian

2nd Sunday of Lent (3)
Sat Mar 16
 Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John
Sun Mar 17
 Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Senele
 Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John
 Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Pat
 Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr Senele
 Havelock (11) Mass/Fr John
 Tongan Community Mass/Fr Senele
 Renwick (5) Mass/Fr John

3rd Sunday of Lent (4)
Sat Mar 23
 Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat
Sun Mar 24
 Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Pat
 Picton (9am) **W&C**
 Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John
 Blenheim (10am) Mass/ Fr Pat
 Havelock (11am) **W&C**
 Ward (4pm) Mass/Fr John

Let Us Remember in our Prayers and at Mass:

Recently Deceased: Shane Falvey
Anniversaries: Please remember those parishioners who have passed away over the years and are noted in our memorial books at Blenheim, Kaikoura and Picton. People will be mentioned specifically each week if family notify the office of their loved ones anniversary.
Feb 26 Nora Costello **March 3** Con Palmer
 6 Chris Riordan
Other Intentions: Moran Costello & John Costello

COLLECTIONS:

We are most grateful for your support of our Parish of Star Of The Sea.
Last week:
 AP's: \$2757.00
 Envelopes: \$2058.50
 Loose: \$ 708.80





Pope Francis speaks to Presidents of Episcopal Conferences at the conclusion of the Meeting

In a major address on Sunday, Pope Francis contextualizes the "scourge" of abuse, and appeals for an "all-out battle against the abuse of minors, both sexually and in other areas." Vatican News, 24 Feb 2019.

"The time has come, then, to work together to eradicate the evil" of child abuse, Pope Francis said, in a speech delivered at the close of the final Mass for the Meeting on the Protection of Minors in the Church. "The time has come to find a correct equilibrium of all values in play and to provide uniform directives for the Church, avoiding the two extremes of a 'justicialism' provoked by guilt for past errors and media pressure, and a defensiveness that fails to confront the causes and effects of these grave crimes".

Speaking to church leaders, primarily the presidents of the world's episcopal conferences, the Holy Father said, "the Church's aim will be to hear, watch over, protect, and care for abused, exploited, and forgotten children, wherever they are". To achieve that goal, he continued, "the Church must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by little ones".

A global context

Pope Francis began his address by putting the sexual abuse of children in a global context. The work of the Meeting, he said, "has made us realize once again that the gravity of the scourge of sexual abuse of minors is, and historically has been, a widespread phenomenon in all cultures and societies". Even today, he said, it is difficult to get a true idea of "the real extent of the phenomenon", since sexual abuse is often not reported, "particularly the great number committed within families". Citing the best data available – "in my opinion," he said, still partial" – the Pope said the "first truth that emerges" is that "those who perpetrate abuse that is acts of physical, sexual, or emotional violence, are primarily parents, relatives,

husbands of child brides, coaches, and teachers".

The Pope concludes, "we are thus facing a universal problem, tragically present almost everywhere, and affecting everyone". "Yet we need to be clear", he continues, "that while gravely affecting our societies as a whole, this evil is in no way less monstrous when it takes place within the Church". Indeed, "the brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church, for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility".

The Church, Pope Francis says, "feels called to combat this evil that strikes at the very heart of her mission, which is to preach the Gospel to the little ones and to protect them from ravenous wolves". He insists, "if in the Church there should emerge even a single case of abuse – which already in itself represents an atrocity – that case will be faced with the utmost seriousness".

Pope Francis notes that the phenomenon of the sexual abuse of minors cannot be understood without considering "power", "since it is always the result of an abuse of power" which is also present "in other forms of abuse", such as "child soldiers, child prostitutes, starving children", trafficking victims, "child victims of war, refugee children, aborted children, and so many others".

A manifestation of the spirit of evil

But, the Pope continues, "Before all this cruelty, all this idolatrous sacrifice of children to the god of power, money, pride and arrogance, empirical explanations alone are not sufficient". While empirical explanations can provide an explanation, they are "incapable of giving us a meaning". So, he asks, "what would be the existential 'meaning' of this criminal phenomenon". "In the light of its human breadth and depth, it is none other than the present-day manifestation of the spirit of evil". He warns that "if we fail to take account of this dimension, we will remain far from the truth and lack real solutions".

Pope Francis says that "Just as we must take every practical measure that common sense, the sciences and society offer us, neither must we lose sight of this reality; we need to take up the spiritual means that the Lord himself teaches us: humiliation, self-accusation, prayer and penance". This, he says, "is the only way to

overcome the spirit of evil".

Looking to "best practices" formulated under the guidance of the World Health Organization, as well as the work of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and the contributions made by the "Protection of Minors" Meeting, Pope Francis said the Church going forward will concentrate in particular on eight aspects of the crisis: protection of children, impeccable seriousness, genuine purification, formation, strengthening and reviewing guidelines by Episcopal Conferences, accompaniment of those who have been abused, the digital world, and sexual tourism".

Notably, Pope Francis reiterated his commitment that "the Church will spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice whosoever has committed such crimes. The Church will never seek to hush up or not take seriously any case" of abuse of minors.

The Holy Father also thanked all priests and consecrated persons "who serve the Lord faithfully and totally", despite the "shameful conduct of some of their confreres"; as well as the "majority of priests who are not only faithful to their celibacy, but spend themselves in a ministry today made even more difficult by the scandals of the few (but always too many of their confreres)". He thanked, too, the faithful, who "who are well aware of the goodness of their pastors, and who continue to pray for them and to support them".

Opportunity for purification

Finally, the Pope stressed the importance of "turning this evil into an opportunity for purification". Quoting Edith Stein, St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Pope Francis said, "Surely, the decisive events of history of the world have been essentially influenced by souls about whom the history books remain silent". The "holy, faithful People of God", he explained, "in its daily silence, in many forms and ways continues to demonstrate and attest with 'stubborn' hope that the Lord never abandons but sustains the constant and, in so many cases, painful devotion of his children".

"The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the People of Holy Mother Church and to the entire world", the Pope said, "are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assist-

ing and protecting the most vulnerable".

An all-out battle against abuse

And he concluded his address with his "heartfelt appeal for an all-out battle against the abuse of minors both sexually and in other areas, on the part of all authorities and individuals, for we are dealing with abominable crimes that must be erased from the face of the earth: this is demanded by all the many victims hidden in families and in the various settings of our societies".



Journalist Valentina Alazraki told the bishops what they needed to hear

ROME, 23 Feb 2019. Catholic Herald.

There's one speech you need to read from the Saturday sessions of the Vatican's child protection meeting – a day dedicated to the theme of transparency – and veteran Vaticanologist Valentina Alazraki of Mexico's Noticieros Televisa delivered it during the afternoon session.

It was the last working session before Vespers and the special penitential liturgy, and it is not too much to say she nailed it.

Alazraki's remarks were a frank challenge and a moral lesson that cut through the mystifying jargon that has dominated so much of the talk over the past three days, and she delivered them in words a child could understand.

"We journalists know that abuse is not limited to the Catholic Church," Alazraki said, "but you must understand that we have to be more rigorous with you than with others, by virtue of your moral role."

In case it was needed, she illustrated the point. "Stealing, for example, is wrong, but if the one stealing is a police officer it seems more serious to us, because it is the opposite of what he or she should do, which is to protect the community from thieves."

Alazraki spoke of the right of the faithful – and the broad public – to know the truth, and to

have it from those who are responsible for their safety and especially that of their children. "I would like you to leave this hall," Alazraki explained, "with the conviction that we journalists are neither those who abuse nor those who cover up. Our mission is to assert and defend a right, which is a right to information based on truth in order to obtain justice."

She explained the terms of the issue before the participants, and spelled out the stakes unsparingly:

If you are against those who commit or cover up abuse, then we are on the same side. We can be allies, not enemies. We will help you to find the rotten apples and to overcome resistance in order to separate them from the healthy ones. But if you do not decide in a radical way to be on the side of the children, mothers, families, civil society, you are right to be afraid of us, because we journalists, who seek the common good, will be your worst enemies.

That wasn't a threat to the bishops, it was a promise: to them and to the public.

Introducing Valentina Alazraki to the hall, Fr. Federico Lombardi SJ noted that she has been on this beat for many years. When she started, Paul VI was Pope, and she has hardly missed a single papal trip since Pope St. John Paul II's election (during whose pontificate she went to 100-104).

She's seen it all, and she knows the score. You can be sure she knew the room she was addressing, when she said, "Behind the silence, the lack of healthy, transparent communication, quite often there is not only the fear of scandal, concern for the institution's good name, but also money, compensation, gifts," and graft.

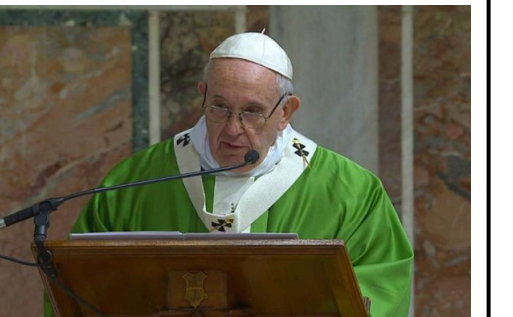
That line appeared in the section of her speech concerning the notorious founder of the Legion of Christ, Fr. Marcial Maciel, who used the congregation he founded to create a veneer of respectability and provide a source of funding for the most grotesque immorality: *One need not forget that in the Legion there was a fourth vow according to which if a Legionary saw something he was uncertain of regarding a superior, he could neither criticize much less comment about it. Without this censure, without this total concealment, had there been transparency, Marcial Maciel would not have been able, for decades, to abuse seminarians and to have three or four lives, wives and children, who came to*

accuse him of having abused his own children.

"I assure you," she said, "that at the basis of that scandal, which did so much harm to thousands of people, to the point of tarnishing the memory of one who is now a saint, there was unhealthy communication."

"The faithful," Alazraki went on to say, "do not forgive the lack of transparency, because it is a new assault on the victims. Those who fail to inform encourage a climate of suspicion and incite anger and hatred against the institution."

She told the bishops what they'd been doing wrong in concrete terms, frankly and forthrightly spoken, not in a spirit of condemnation, but of exhortation – and admonition. They needed to hear it. Here's hoping they take the message to heart. Now, they have no excuse.



Guidelines for New Legislation

Building upon the World Health Organization's "Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children," the pope presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in "developing her legislation" on the issues.

The eight guidelines can be summarized as follows:

1. A "change of mentality" to focus on protecting children rather than "protecting the institution."
2. A recognition of the "impeccable seriousness" of these "sins and crimes of consecrated persons."
3. A genuine purification beginning with "self-accusation."
4. Positive formation of candidates for the priesthood in the virtue of chastity.
5. Strengthening and reviewing of guidelines by episcopal conferences, reaffirming the need for "rules."
6. The accompaniment of those who have been abused with an emphasis on listening.
7. Ensure that seminarians and clergy are not enslaved to an addiction to pornography.
8. Combat sexual tourism around the world.