



# Te Whetu o te Moana | Star of the Sea Marlborough Catholic Parish

From the Sounds to the Sea, the Mountains to the Plains  
We Are One Mission. One Parish. Seven Communities  
Blenheim | Havelock | Kaikoura | Picton | Renwick | Seddon | Ward  
Parish Office: 61 Maxwell Road, Blenheim | T. 03 578 0038  
EM. office@staroftheseamarlb.co.nz | FB. Star of the Sea Marlborough (328 follows)

## 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)

**Acting PP: Fr Pat McIndoe CP (BHM)**  
patmc21@gmail.com 03 578 0038

**Assistant PP: Fr Jacob Kuman CP**  
jaocb.kuman@passionists.com 03 578 0038

**Past Assist: Sr Maureen Connor SMSM**  
maureensmsm@yahoo.co.nz

**Past Assist: Sr Frances Anna SMSM**  
franciesmsm@gmail.com

**Manager/Secretary: Ginetta Petersen.**  
**Office Assistant: Mandy Li (BHM);**

**Youth Ministers: Maurice & Mieke Davies**  
stmarysyounggroup@xtra.co.nz 022 391 8584

**Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Greg Stretch**  
**Parish Finance Committee Chair: Tom Harrison**

## Newsletter No 18: 24 May 2020 Ascension of the Lord

In an editorial in "The Press" last Thursday, the editor makes the point that Covid-19, worrying as it is, may have taken our eyes off the main crisis that faces the world today – in his opinion being the warming of the planet and its allied threat of climate change. He writes of how Auckland city's dire water shortage, the dry crops in Northland, drought in the Waikato, and we might add in Hawkes Bay, and Fr Jacob's remarking to me how dry and parched the land looked between here and Kaikoura. These are all symptoms of a huge problem – how can we better manage the difficulties that to a large extent we human beings have made for ourselves – namely that the planet is now cluttered with rubbish, rubbish in the land, rubbish in the oceans, and rubbish, albeit very fine rubbish, in the very atmosphere about us from our own making.

What has this got to do with the feast of the Ascension, you say?

Everything! Jesus ascended into heaven as Lord of a new heaven and a new earth.

In chapter 1 of the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples ask Jesus: "Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus seems to dodge the question, but tells them to go and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, and then empowered by him "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and throughout Judea, in Samaria and indeed to the earth's remotest end." (Acts 1:8)

In effect Jesus tells them that now He is in great power at the right hand of the Father and that we are to receive the Holy Spirit and that we are to be his ambassadors to the Kingdom; this Kingdom that he has inaugurated through his Death and Resurrection. The Church is the first fruits of that Kingdom, like leaven that is to make the dough rise for a beautiful loaf of bread.

So we are to show by our care for the earth, by our moral stands in life, by our respect for life in its varied forms, that God is still building a new Heaven and a new Earth (Rev. 21:v1).

We have felt the 'kick back' of the out of control forces of the weather. Now we are felling the 'kick back' of the unseen micro-organisms that inhabit the planet alongside of us.

These last few weeks when we have stopped, and gone back into the nests of our homes has been a special time, when we have listened more to each other, when we have heard the birds sing again, and we put pause on all the jet planes that must continually hammer the good atmosphere and the ozone layer.

Perhaps God is telling us: "Stop, look, listen! The earth is trying to tell you humans something!"

Are you listening? Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato Si" is calling on all people, saying: "You must actively care for the Earth and the Earth's Poor, if you are to have a future for you and your children. " Let us take his message seriously.

Jesus has ascended to the Father in his Risen Body. We are to actively extend his Kingdom of love, peace, justice and reconciliation not only to other people, but to all creation. Jesus gives us a mission and says: "Your mission is not ultimately a failure, because if you stay united to Me, Your mission is in the Power of the Holy Spirit. The Father's Kingdom is coming. Go! Get busy!"  
Fr Pat CP

### The Ascension of the Lord (start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

**Sun 24th:** Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

**Psalm Response:** Psalm 47

**Mon 25th:** Acts 19:1-8

John 16:26-33

**Our Lady, Help of Christians**

**Tues 26th:** Acts 20:17-27

John 17:1-11

St Philip Neri, priest

**Wed 27th:** Acts 20:28-38

John 17:11-19

St Augustine of Canterbury

**Thurs 28th:** Acts 22:30,23:6-11

John 17:20-26

**Fri 29th:** Acts 25:13-21

John 21:15-19

**Sat 30th:** Acts 28:16-20,30-31

John 21:20-25

### Pentecost Sunday

**Sun 31st:** Acts 2:1-11

1Cor 12:3-7,12-13

John 20: 19-23

## Week of prayer for Christian Unity



Dear friends

During this week between Ascension and Pentecost Sundays the Christian churches make a special effort to pray for Christian unity.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28.2), which refers to the reception given to Paul and companions when they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta.

There is much to reflect upon in this theme in the light of our experience of the last few weeks with COVID-19. We have been urged to "Be kind" and to "Stay united". The pandemic has been the equivalent of a shipwreck for many people, and "unusual kindness" is needed as never before.

Over centuries the Christian churches have moved from hostility and aggression towards one another to working together on the many things we have in common, especially our assistance for those who are most vulnerable. Kindness can unite us as Christians. We have already seen how it can unite us as Kiwis.

Please take part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in some way. If gathering is not possible or risky, then use the Eight Days of Prayer for Christian Unity leaflet which is available on <https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-25-31-may-2020/>

Everything you do towards Christian unity counts.

John A Cardinal Dew

**Archbishop of Wellington**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (25-31 May)

Biblical Text for 2020

Acts 27:18 – 28:10

"They showed us unusual kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2)

The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the Christian churches in Malta, on behalf of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches.

The resources have been adapted for Aotearoa New Zealand by the Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenism. They include:

Liturgy sheet (may have to be adapted for limitations on gatherings)

Children's activities (can be used in a group or at home)

Eight Days of Prayer (for individual use or group use)

Homilies of Pope Francis for the Week of Prayer (the Week is celebrated in January in the northern hemisphere)

### **Background to the theme**

On 10th February Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer.

The story begins with Paul being taken to Rome as a prisoner (Acts 27:1ff). Paul is in chains, but even in what turns out to be a perilous journey, the mission of God continues through him. This narrative is a classic drama of humanity confronted by the terrifying power of the elements. The passengers on the boat are at the mercy of the forces of the seas beneath them and the powerful tempest that rages about them. These forces take them into unknown territory, where they are lost and without hope.

The 276 people on board the ship are divided into distinct groups. The centurion and his soldiers have power and authority but are dependent on the skill and experience of the sailors. Although all are afraid and vulnerable, the prisoners in chains are the most vulnerable of all. Their lives are expendable; they are at risk of summary execution (27:42). As the story unfolds, under pressure and in fear for their lives, we see distrust and suspicion widening the divisions between the different groups.

Remarkably, however, Paul stands out as a centre of peace in the turmoil. He knows that his life is not governed by forces indifferent to his fate, but rather is held in the hands of the God to

whom he belongs and whom he worships (see 27:23). Because of this faith, he can stand before his fellow travellers and give thanks to God. All are encouraged. Following Paul's example, they share bread together, united in a new hope and trusting in his words.

This illustrates a major theme in the passage: divine providence. It had been the centurion's decision to set sail in bad weather, and throughout the storm the sailors made decisions about how to handle the ship. But in the end their plans are thwarted. The ship and its cargo will be lost, but all lives will be saved, "for none of you will lose a hair from your heads" (27:34; see Lk 21:18). In our search for Christian unity, surrendering ourselves to divine providence will demand letting go of many things to which we are deeply attached.

This diverse and conflicted group of people runs aground "on some island" (27:26). Having been thrown together in the same boat, they arrive at the same destination, where their human unity is disclosed in the hospitality they receive from the islanders. As they gather round the fire, surrounded by a people who neither know nor understand them, differences of power and status fall away. The 276 are no longer at the mercy of indifferent forces, but embraced by God's loving providence made present through a people who show them "unusual kindness" (28:2). They are sheltered until it is safe for them to continue their journey.

Today many people are facing the same terrors on the same seas. The very same places named in the reading (27:1, 28:1) also feature in the stories of modern-day migrants. In other parts of the world many others are making equally dangerous journeys by land and sea to escape natural disasters, warfare and poverty. Their lives, too, are at the mercy of immense and coldly indifferent forces – not only natural, but political, economic and human. As Christians together facing these crises of migration this story challenges us: do we collude with the cold forces of indifference, or do we

## Week of prayer for Christian Unity Contd..

show "unusual kindness" and become witnesses of God's loving providence to all people?

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It is a practice that calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, important though this is, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

The reflections for the eight days and the worship service are focused on the text from the Acts of

the Apostles. The themes for the eight days are:

Day 1: Reconciliation: Throwing the cargo overboard

Day 2: Enlightenment: Seeking and showing forth Christ's light

Day 3: Hope: Paul's message

Day 4: Trust: Do not be afraid, believe

Day 5: Strength: Breaking bread for the journey

Day 6: Hospitality: Show unusual kindness

Day 7: Conversion: Changing our hearts and minds

Day 8: Generosity: Receiving and giving

## Prayer an inner desire to encounter God: Pope

By Junno Arocho Esteves

[Catholic News Service](#)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prayer is more than just a physical, emotional or intellectual act; it is an inner desire to encounter God, Pope Francis said.

Continuing his new series of talks on prayer during his weekly general audience May 13, the pope said that the longing expressed through prayer "is more than a need, more than a necessity."

"Prayer is an impetus; it is an invocation that goes beyond us — something that is born in the depths of our person and reaches out, because it feels the yearning for an encounter," the pope said.

Greeting Portuguese-speakers during the audience, which was livestreamed from the papal library in the Apostolic Palace, the pope commemorated the 103rd anniversary of the first Marian apparition in Fatima, Portugal.

He called on Catholics to follow Mary's example and live out the month of May by praying the rosary, which was "a desire repeatedly expressed by Our Lady at Fatima."

The pope also commemorated the 39th anniversary of the assassination attempt on St. John Paul II, who was shot at close range while greeting a crowd in St. Peter's Square in 1981.

Two bullets pierced the pope's abdomen, but no major organs were struck; a bullet had missed his heart and aorta by a few inches, prompting the Polish pontiff to say that "it was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path."

Announcing that he will celebrate a Mass in remembrance of St. John Paul's 100th birthday May 18, Pope Francis exhorted the faithful to "thank God for giving us this holy bishop of Rome, and let us ask him to help us, to help this church of Rome to convert and go forward."

In his main talk, the pope reflected on Christian prayer that is "born from a revelation" and celebrates throughout the year the "manifestation of God, his epiphany."

"God reveals his glory in the poverty of Bethlehem, in the contemplation of the Magi, in baptism at the Jordan, in the miracle of the wedding at Cana," he explained.

A characteristic of Christian prayer is that it is not based on fear or servitude. Instead, Christians can turn to God and "dare to confidently call him 'Father.'"

"Christianity has banished any 'feudal' relationship from the bond with God. In the heritage of our faith, there are no expressions such as 'subjugation,' 'slavery' or 'servitude,'" he said. Instead, there are words such as "covenant," "friendship" and "communion."

Pope Francis encouraged Christians to "enter into the mystery of the covenant" by placing themselves in God's merciful embrace even if they feel "like guests who do not deserve so much honour."

He also called on the faithful "to say to God, in the amazement of prayer: 'Is it possible that you know only love?' This is the passionate nucleus of every Christian prayer."

A quote sent through from [Ecology, Justice and Peace Office](#):

The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Pope Francis, [Laudato Si'](#) (paragraph 12), 2015



## Parish Calendar, News & Notices

### **Mass Continues Online:**

Fr Pat and Fr Jacob will be saying Mass and livestreaming it on our Facebook page this Saturday at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to join in. This can also be viewed at a later time if you wish.

Please pray for the family of Fr Michael O'Dea who passed away last Sunday. He had been Parish Priest of St Mary's in Nelson in the past.

### **Prayer for the 7th day in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Almighty God, we turn to you with repentant hearts. In our sincere quest for your truth, lead the churches to grow in communion. Help us let go of our fears, and so better understand each other and the stranger in our midst. We ask this in the name of the Just One, your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



### **Community Matters**

The Parish Pastoral Council met on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and discussed further the letter from the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. It was decided to keep the

Star of the Sea Parish Churches **closed for the moment.**

This was mainly due to the requirement of only 10 people being allowed to gather at any one time and the Health & Safety Protocols required to open the buildings.

A sub-committee has been formed to look at how we can open our churches safely, and they will meet on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, after the Prime Ministers announcement about level changes, and discuss how to implement the changes required.

The recommendations will then be reported on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to the Parish Pastoral Council, and a decision made from there.

Reconciliation is still available by appointment.

### **Planned Giving Receipts:**

Since we have been in lockdown, not everything can be done at the correct time. One is Planned Giving Envelopes and Receipts. We will endeavour to get them out as speedily as possible.

BNZ has made changes to the way we can bank our cash, so we now have to use a Smart ATM. They have also announced that cheques will no longer be accepted in July 2021. If your Planned Giving is done via cheque, please contact Ginetta at the Parish Office and she can discuss other options with you.

### **Liturgy Resource:**

"The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary" is a devotion practiced since the 10th Century. It is in Contemporary english and cost \$5 (P.P. free in NZ). Write to BVM, P O Box 88, Whitianga

3510. Sorry there is no email or phone number available to respond to.

**St Vincent de Paul:** The Blenheim shop will be open as of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, under reduced hours. Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm, Sat: 10am-1pm. The Picton shop is open too: Tues, Thurs & Fri: 10am-2pm which are also reduced hours for the time being. The shops are full of winter bargains, and waiting for you.

### **Parish Calendar**

#### **May**

**May 24..The Ascension of the Lord**

25-31 May..Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

May 25..Our Lady, Help of Christians

May 26..Parish Pastoral Council (7)

**May 31..Pentecost Sunday**

#### **June**

June 1..Mary, Mother of the Church

**June 7..The Most Holy Trinity**

**June 14..The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

June 16..Finance & Property (7)

June 19..The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 20..The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**June 21..12th Sunday of Ord Time**

June 24..The Nativity of St John the Baptist

**June 28..13th Sunday of Ord Time**

June 29..Sts Peter & Paul, Apostles

#### **July**

July 3.. St Thomas, Apostle

**July 5..14th Sunday of Ord Time**

**July 12..15th Sunday of Ord Time**

**July 19.16th Sunday of Ord Time**

July 25.. St James, Apostle

**July 26..17th Sunday of Ord Time**

**Recently Deceased:** Michael Prendergast (Picton), Colin McKay, Norman Thornton (Chch), Sister Mary Boyes (Mary Gerard)- Sister of Mercy (Chch), Sharon Richards, Annette Goulter, Fr Michael O'Dea (Otaki), John Broad (Whanganui), Terry Shewan

**Anniversaries: May 17** Matt Johnstone **20** Jack Hickman **25** Brian Kerridge

**Other Intentions:** Nancy Hickman, Friends & Family of O & M Hickman

### **COLLECTIONS:**

We are most grateful for your support of our Parish of Star Of The Sea.

#### **Last week (minus levies):**

AP's: \$1,247.40  
Envelopes: \$ 699.60  
Loose:

thank you!