

Mercy Parish-Whānau Aroha

**5th September
2021**

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Parish Priest:**

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Reflection: 05 Sept 2021 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 7: 31-37

It's now 18 months since COVID 19 hit our country and other countries of the world.

We are living in a climate of fear and anxiety, uncertain of what will happen to us in this different atmosphere of restrictions, thinking and prayer when this new normal returns.

Most of us are in our own bubbles, some in the hospitals and others in isolation.

Vaccinations and testing are ongoing to stop this virus from spreading.

We are faced, with most of us are needing support and having the courage to open up.

We as a nation, as a community, as a group, as a neighbour, as a friend and as an individual do impromptu acts of kindness and all sorts of services in response to COVID 19.

It is with courage that we do things together and we believe in God's presence in our lives and live in the hope to return to the normal ways of doing things during these challenging times.

Our gospel reading today reminds us to open up to help as what Jesus did to the deaf man. He did something to him. The man had the courage without hesitation and being brave enough and responsive to Jesus' action. It showed how Jesus interacted with that man.

We do the same as we face these uncertainties today. We open to God and lift everything to Him through prayer. We pray that we all remain focused and open to hear God's words, that God be in our lives and we live our lives with openness and courage to face COVID 19 which continues to spread.

Collective universal prayer and actions are most asked of us to stop this pandemic.

As we attempt to open our hearts and have the courage to be present to those in need, we pray in words of Anne Osdieck:

Jesus
Open our ears
So that we can hear You
In the pleading of the poor,
The cry of the environment
The war-torn
The immigrants
The hungry.
Open our ears
So we can hear You.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time B

5 September 2021 Mercy Parish – Whanau Aroha.

Prayers of the Faithful.

The response is: **Creator God hear our prayer.**

For the Church, that in this time of uncertainty we will be a voice of compassion accompanying those who are fearful and sharing faith in God who walks with us.

In faith we pray.

For an understanding of the connection between the needs of creation and the needs of the poor, so that world leaders can see how the suffering of the poor increases when creation is neglected or abused.

In faith we pray.

Just as St Joseph was the guardian of the child Jesus, may all fathers honour their vocation as the guardians of their children, and love, respect and protect them all through their lives.

In faith we pray.

We pray for fathers who live in complex situations because of poor health, unemployment, or relationship difficulties, may they find inspiration to live with hope.

In faith we pray.

For those who live with disabilities, that they may be loved and supported in their daily challenges, and that they may be welcomed by all for their gifts and talents rather than their disability.

In faith we pray.

For all those who have died recently, especially: Margaret O'Brien

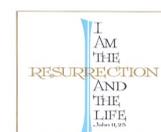
And for those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, especially: Frank O'Neill, Daile King, Catherine Mallon (née Walsh) & Kevin Murphy

May they enjoy the salvation won for them by Jesus Christ.

In faith we pray.

We Prayerfully Remember those who have died recently

Margaret O'Brien
and those who have anniversaries
Frank O'Neill & Daile King
Catherine Mallon (née Walsh) & Kevin Murphy





Yesterday Gerry from the St Frances Trust set up the usual Thursday "Free Soup and Buns" at the Basilica. This was setup under Level 3 Restrictions and was contactless. Although it was not as busy as usual he still had some regulars come by as well as people passing. Everyone was pleased with the opportunity for a takeaway soup.

Kia ora koutou,
(a message from Sarah our Centre Co-Ordinator)

I hope all is well in your bubble and that you're able to stay connected.

The move to level three doesn't bring any changes for us. The shops will remain closed and we will continue to operate the food bank through contactless delivery (thank you Pauline, Tim, Mark, Gerry, Graeme and Bernadette). The shops will reopen at level two.

We've had substantially more food parcels going out this lockdown compared to last year and I think this is a combination of the short notice going into lockdown, and Work & Income being notably less generous giving food grants to their clients.

The food rescue organisation Kiwi Harvest have not been able to supply nearly as much as we usually receive from them, and of course we haven't had parish donations either. As a result, we're now buying almost everything that's going into our parcels, except canned food, which The Salvation Army generously gave us a supply of shortly before lockdown.

The other difference is that a State of Emergency was declared last year and Civil Defence were instrumental in providing resources to community groups supporting the most vulnerable. The good news is that there is talk of the New Zealand Food Network stepping in this week and supplying foodbanks with much needed resources. I'm in regular contact with the other food bank operators and we're all experiencing the same level of need and are anxious for a solution.

Thank you to everyone who has donated during this time. Our treasured community is seeing us through and without your help we simply would not be able to keep going.



SEASON OF CREATION

We live in a world of wonder...

'Every moment and encounter is an opportunity to be amazed by beauty, enraptured by amazement, and consoled by the traces of divine presence. We are part of a world in which God is alert to the needs of the birds of the air, and attentive to the beauty of the lilies (Mt 6: 25-34)... we are invited into ongoing conversion to transform our outlook and actions to be in accord with the loving presence of God at the heart of all reality, to be attentive to the beauty in all things, to recognise Christ in the stranger, and to hear and respond to the cry of the earth.'

(from 'Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor'- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2021-22)

Also Sr Noreen McGrath, pvbm, has prepared a resource for the Season of Creation which is available on the Diocesan website <https://www.cdd.org.nz/>.

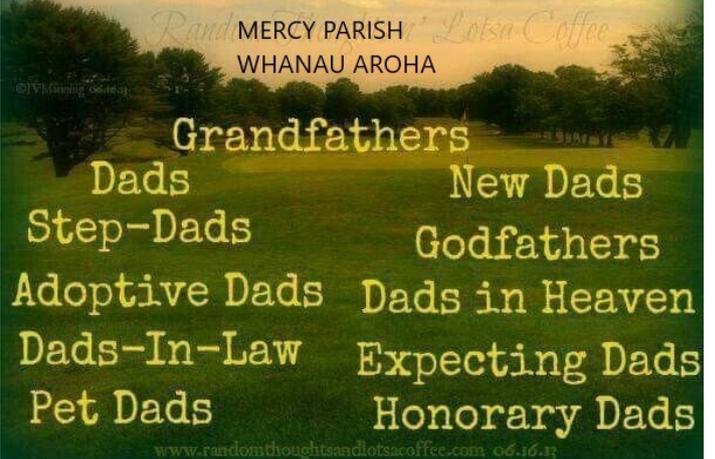
Webpage: mercyparish.nz

Facebook: @mercyparish.whanauaroha

We are so happy you could join us today. If you would like to be more involved in the parish please call either Lynne Toomey (0210430536) Claire 021 130 7691 (hospitality) or Lee-Ann Henry at lee-ann.h@outlook.com (Liturgy Rosters) Or visit us online.

Happy Father's Day

Today we honor all the fathers in our life...



International Rosary for September has been cancelled because of the uncertainty of the Delta variant. We hope to be able to celebrate this Rosary again on October 5th, being the first Tuesday of the month.