



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Avondale Parish Bulletin – 23rd August 2020

Vision / Tirohanga

Growing in Faith Together / Oranga i roto i te Whakapono

Goal / Whainga

To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te Oranga Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 22:1,19-23; Psalm 138; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Phillipi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

**Together Shine in the Mission of Christ
is the theme for this 3rd Year (2020) of Preparations
for the Parish Centennial (2021)**

Reading 1**IS 22:19-23**

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

Responsorial Psalm PS 138:1-2, 2-3, 6,8

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple.(R)

I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.(R)

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.(R)

Reading II**ROM 11:33-36**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Alleluia**MT 16:18**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel**MT 16:13-20**

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful

For the Church – that Church leaders work industriously to set free those oppressed by abuse, discrimination or neglect.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For world leaders – that they ensure their citizens are able to practice their religion, without fear of discrimination or violence.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all who have been victims of terrorist attacks – that through the kind and loving actions of people around them, their hope will be renewed, and they will learn again to trust in humanity.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For people whose violent actions have caused harm – that they seek help to end their violent behaviour and that they will be supported in this endeavour by communities and health professionals.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all people who have been sexually abused – that they be set free from the grief that shadows them, and that through the support and care of community, they are able to live dignified lives, free from fear of further harassment.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For our nation as we approach the coming election – that people take time to be well informed about the referenda and use this opportunity to express care and build a nation that is compassionate and just.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

News and Updates from the Parish and the Diocese:

To Parishioners of St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Avondale. A reminder to all that we are still in Level 3 Lockdown until 26 August at 11.59pm. This means there will be **no Masses or parish gatherings for any reason until after 26 August or until the lockdown is lifted.** Let's continue to be faithful, during Level 3 and view the celebration of holy Mass online, remembering each other and all victims of Covid-19 virus in our prayers.

Broadcast Mass Shine TV Sunday 2.00pm Free-to-air TV Channel 25 | SKY TV Channel 201. This week from the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph with Bishop Michael Gielen. Also available to download from 6pm Saturday on the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>

Postponed : Unpacking the Mission Map (Pastoral Plan) that was to be held on 29 August has been postponed to 14 November.

All members of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland community are warmly invited to the Liturgy Conference, Worshipping under Southern Skies: Weaving Together Liturgy and Life, to be held at Baradene College from 1st – 3rd October. Excellent keynote speakers, a mouth-watering variety of Breakout Sessions. See <https://wuss.org.nz/>. This will be a time to grow deeper in faith, to grow stronger in community, richer in love, more vibrant in our communal prayer and celebration of the liturgy.

Job Opportunity Te Kupenga–Catholic Leadership Institute is seeking a Marketing and Business Development Advisor to build the profile of the organisation, which was formed on 1 January by the merger of Good Shepherd College and The Catholic Institute (TCI). The role is Auckland-based and fixed term full-time for two years. Full details: <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/50415919>

STAY SAFE EVERYONE

Recently departed Parishioners (22nd August-28th August)

Eva Bradley, James Stanhope Wyrill, Leonore Alexandra Robson, Peter Conneley, John Anthony Alach, Joseph Borich, Ola Frances Pitkethley, Audrey Doris Brosnahan, Sene Fruean, Viane 'Faumui' Naime, Ella Mary Bishop, Vjenceslav Simon Sokolich, Agnes Sera Daley, George Simich, Johannes Cornelis Boersen, Elva Mary Kirby, Petusa Fonoti, Mary Ann Rogal, William Patrick Hopkins, James Cameron McCabe, Agnes Mary Hartley, Sidney John Fairweather, Caroline Elizabeth Corin, Noeline Vale, Annette Ruby Berghan, May Janet McKee, Estelle Marie Tylee, Robert Peter Leota, Paul Milan Alfred Gugich.
May the Lord grant them eternal rest. Amen.

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	Account Number for mass offering: 02-0100-0120958-05	
	Account Number for SMACC Building Fund: 02-0108-0339938-04	

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