



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Avondale Parish Bulletin –6th September 2020

Vision / Tirohanga

Growing in Faith Together / Oranga i roto i te Whakapono

Goal / Whaingā

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



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ezekiel: 33:7-9; Psalm: 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his Death. The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law. Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back. Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel provides us with a lesson that could be well heeded in our contemporary world. Matthew relates a discourse on dealing with a grievance or sin between two 'brothers' – community members; fellow disciples. Matthew advises his audience that the first step is to try to resolve the matter privately between the offender and the one offended. This is a practice that seems to have almost disappeared today. When one person feels offended or hurt by another, it seems the last thing they do is to go and speak to the person, confront them with the hurt and try to resolve it. Soap operas and TV sitcoms promote avoidance of issues. The sub-text of so many

TV shows is about lying to cover up a mistake; seeking revenge for some perceived (usually incorrect) insult; or working through others to try to deal with some hurt. If characters on these TV shows were to confront one another with a perceived hurt and seek to resolve the difference between them, then there would be no 'drama' to play out in the show. Admittedly, it doesn't make for great television, but it does make for much better relationships!

Matthew advises his community that only after a failed attempt to address an issue face to face should other members of the community become involved to further confront the offender through witnessing to their fault. The third step is to bring the person before the church community to be confronted with their actions and only after these three attempts to challenge the person fail should they be shunned. There is a very strong message of reconciliation that comes through this process. The person is given every chance to face their error and to seek amends with the one they have hurt. The whole process works towards bringing the community back together in harmony, not to seek revenge and punishment.

Prayer for the Faithful

Priest: My friends, let us pray for all who are in need of reconciliation with one another.

For the whole church: That it may be a model of true healing and reconciliation ... we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For the resolution of conflicts between and among the world's nations; and for those who mediate inter- national conflicts ... we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For those situations in which reconciliation seems impossible, or wherever conflict leads to hatred, vio- lence or war ... we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For those whose lives are altered because of conflict, especially among children and families ... we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For those unwilling to reconcile with others, and for those who do not know how...we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For those who glorify conflict or use it to promote themselves ... we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For any conflicts that need to be resolved in this community ... we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

For all among us who are suffering, especially the poor, the sick and the dying; and for those who have died we pray,

Reader: E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

Priest: God of healing, we come as people often needing to make peace with one another.

Help us to remember that peace is possible when hearts are open to love. Show us how to be peacemakers in a world in need of healing. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the great healer.

Amen.

A Blessing Prayer for Father's Day by Greg Sunter

God of Kindness and Compassion,
we are your children and you are Father to us all.
We give honour and thanks to those who reflect your fatherly example:
those who are dads and grandads;
step-dads, foster dads, godfathers and fathers-in-law;
those who are coaches, leaders and mentors;
and those who are elders and wisdom-men of our communities.

We look to these men for strength of body and strength of character.
We look to them to pass on skills and pass on stories.
We look to them to protect and provide.
We look to them for care and compassion.
We look to them to be co-creators and stewards of the world.

For all those who embrace their role as father, we give thanks.
For those who struggle with being fathers, give them strength.
For those who are distanced from their children, give them comfort.
For those who have passed from this world, give them peace.

Bless these men that we call father.
Bless them in their strength and in their weakness.
Bless them in their joy and in their sorrow.
Bless them in their work and in their play.
And bless them, Father, for being fathers.



*If today you would listen to God's voice!
Harden not your heart.*

God speaks to me in many ways.
Do I have a genuine desire to listen?
What is God saying to me in my discomfort?



**Happy Birthday to our Senior Parishioners
in the month of September**

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Amelia Towers

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Maopu Anitelea

News and Updates from the Parish and Diocese

A reminder to all Parishioners that a video of the Parish **Sunday Mass** will be uploaded on **Facebook** on **Saturday the 5th of September** at **5:45 pm** until **Monday, 7th September**.

New Sacramental Programme Schedule

Saturday, 10th Oct class 3-4pm
Saturday, 17th Oct class 3-4 pm
Saturday, 24th Oct class 3-4pm
Saturday, 31st Oct class 3-4pm
Saturday, 7th Nov class 3-4pm
Wednesday, 11th Nov Reconciliation
Saturday, 14th Nov sponsor Rehearsal
Saturday, 21st Nov sponsor Rehearsal
Sunday, 22nd Nov Mass 6pm

Gifts for the Poor: We encourage all families in the parish to prepare a special gift pack of non-perishable food pack for the poor and deposit them in the 'Gifts for the needy' box kept at the front of the Church.

The Statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is available for the annual visit to each of our Parishioners houses. Please enter your details in the foyer on the sheet provided.

We pray for the souls of our loved ones whose anniversaries occur during this time 5th September – 11th September Irene May (Eileen) Lane, Mary Josephine Ryan, Archie McGeoch, Sarah Veronika Imrie, Maureen Felicia Lynch, Alfred James Patrick McKenna, Winifred Margaret Stringfellow, Theresa Maria Crawshaw, Frank Bernard Kirkham, George Morris, Nancy Bennett Martin, Cushla Irene Hutton, Maurice Alfred Bourke, Olwen Jane Sisson, Joyce Elsie Ray, Julia Margaret Doyle, Henry Stock, Anna Szymanski, Eliza Jane Heron, Thomas Charles Bunbury, George William Crummett, Angela Bernadette Gregan, Adrienne Ruth Bolder. **May the Lord grant them eternal rest. Amen.**



Support to visitors to NZ on temporary visas NZ Red Cross is working with the DIA to provide support to visitors to NZ on temporary visas, (i.e. not citizens or Permanent Resident visa-holders) who are experiencing financial hardship due to being stranded in NZ due to COVID 19. For more info go to foreign.nationals.services.govt.nz

Job opportunity Pregnancy Help Inc has a vacancy for Auckland Branch Coordinator. The ideal candidate will be trained in counselling, be IT literate, have good management skills, Email your CV to Kheng Tan, Honorary Treasurer, kdsdtan@gmail.com

Priest Administrator

Fr. Shane Reade SDB

Phone: (09) 828 9309

Email:

ppriest@avondalecatholic.org.nz

Mobile: 027-325-2986

Assistant Priest:

Fr. James Adayadiel SDB

Parish Office Hours:

Email:

adayadiel@gmail.com

Tue – Fri: 11am – 2pm

School Principal:

Mrs. Kathryn Hira

Weekends: CLOSED

Email:

principal@stmarysavondale.school.nz

Mondays: CLOSED

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Christine Imperial

School Phone: (09) 828 5599

Email:

office@avondalecatholic.org.nz

Website:

www.avondalecatholic.org.nz

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stmarysavondale

Account Number for pledge giving: 02-0100-0120958-04

Account Number for mass offering: 02-0100-0120958-05

Account Number for SMACC Building Fund: 02-0108-0339938-04

St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2134 Great North Rd, Avondale, Auckland 0600

