

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEWSLETTER



26th Sunday In Ordinary Time

27 Sept 2020

Personal responsibility

Nowadays personal responsibility is being eroded. When something goes wrong, no one takes responsibility. It is put down to 'a systems failure'.

And the whole thrust of modern psychoanalysis seems to be directed at removing responsibility from the individual. Someone else is to blame—one's companions, one's parents, one's environment and so on.

At the time of the prophet Ezekiel (First Reading), there was a belief that the child was punished for the sins of the parents. There was a popular saying, 'Parents eat sour grapes, and their children's teeth are set on edge.' But the prophet did not agree with this. He stated clearly and unequivocally that each individual is responsible for his or her actions, and he or she alone will have to answer for them.

He pointed out that we cannot hide behind the goodness or evil of others; each of us stands before God in his own goodness or in his own badness, and is judged accordingly. All of us must, therefore, look into our own hearts. If we do, we will see plenty to blame. But repentance will win us pardon and life. Ezekiel says 'God does not desire the death of the sinner but that he be converted and live.'

We are, of course, influenced by our upbringing and environment. Still, there must come a time when we stop blaming others, and accept responsibility for our actions. We have to say, 'The buck stops with me.' My own sins are my own, and no one else will have to answer before God for them. It is refreshing to hear someone say, 'I am to blame. I am responsible'. But how seldom that happens.

Unless we accept responsibility for our sins, we will see no need to repent for them. If we do accept responsibility for them, we will want to do something about them, and God will help us. If we confess our sins, we have nothing to fear but the mercy of God.

Jesus' story of the two sons is very relevant here. One son gave his word that he would go and work in his father's vineyard, but in actual fact he did not go. He probably said to himself: 'They will get on without me.' Here we have a total of personal responsibility.

The other son at first refused to go, but later reflecting on his decision, saw that it was wrong and went. In other words, he repented. Here you have an example of someone who took responsibility for his life.

We need the Lord to touch our hearts with his compassion. People are essentially good. But this goodness has to be awakened and called forth if we are to enter the Lord's kingdom, which is a kingdom of love.

New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies Flor McCarthy SDB
Flor McCarthy SDB

DIOCESAN NOTICES

NZ Catholic Bishops Statement. The Bishops' *2020 Election Statement-Whakapuaki Pōti* has just been published. Limited printed copies of the Election Statement will be available from pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz if you would like them please email the parish office. It is also available at www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Catholic-Bishops-Election-Statement-2020.pdf

The Nathaniel Report, published by the New Zealand Catholic bishops' Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics. Articles include scrutiny of the euthanasia and cannabis referendums being held at the same time as the October 17 general election. The issue is also online here: www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Nathaniel-Report-61-FINAL.pdf.

Liturgy Conference Although the Liturgy Conference has been postponed until October 2021 Starting from Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd of October we plan to offer a series of **digital presentations** from Conference presenters. If you have registered for the Conference or subscribed to the Conference newsletter, the link to this portal will be emailed to you. Please subscribe to the Liturgy Conference newsletter via the website <https://wuss.org.nz/> if you want to receive the link.

Beginning Experience ALONE AGAIN? A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood 6-8 November. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again and offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The total cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, and materials, plus a follow up event is \$350 with Early Bird cost \$325 if paid by 25 Sept. For further information please phone Kelly 0276864416 or Bev 09 298 9943 & 0272481631 www.beginningexperience.org.nz .

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Devereaux and Claire Geddes, our former parishioners and for the soul of Illuminado Dorado, mother of Fr Mario Dorado.

Rest in peace Pat, Claire and Illuminado.

Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Christopher Hennings, Patsy Nun Toon, Yvonne Sommers, Gail Ware, Maryanne Pasina, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Celestina Gardiner, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Melesete Va'asili, Lloyd Ball, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Christine Roberts Whitcombe, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lillii, Leota Mike Kaisa, Aloysius Thoman, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega and Barbara Lynch.

PARISH NOTICES:

On Line Masses from our church. On you tube channel, Link for this weekend: 26th Sunday in the Ordinary Time of the Year. Mass by Fr Boniface, OFM Cap.

All Masses weekday and Sunday will not commence till level 1. The church and parish office also will be closed till we come down to level 1. **All parish activities will remain suspended. Please check our website for updates.**

Any parishioner needing assistance with food or grocery items, please contact Lyn Smith on 0212597561. Please give your name, address, and number of family members.

Notices from *Titipounamu Study & Joy*

Online Session (Evening): Mary, the Mother of God – A Contemporary Understanding of Mary with Br Kieran Fenn who has a wonderful way of bringing Scripture alive.

Topic on Monday, 28 September, 7-8.30pm: **Mary through History: the Changing Face of Mary**

Fee: \$25/session. Special fees for groups of more than 2 persons. ZOOM.

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

See also: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-teaching-mary-mother-of-god-i-with-kieran-fenn-fms-7/>

Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I ? – Reflecting on our Identity in God with

Eamon Butler. Saturday, 24 October, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60. For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>

PRO LIFE FACTS: About 200 lawyers signed a new open letter expressing concerns about the End of Life Choice Act. New Zealanders will soon be voting in a binding referendum on the details of this euthanasia and assisted suicide law. *Lawyers for Vulnerable New Zealanders* consider the risks “unacceptably high”. They explain how this law could take away choices from people who want to live, because an overdose is cheaper than care: “By redefining a ‘health service’ to include the administration of a lethal dose, the Act also creates a financial disincentive for our Ministry of Health and our health services to provide adequate and timely care to people who would otherwise find themselves eligible to receive a lethal dose.” **For more information see lvnz.org.nz**

READINGS THIS WEEK

Mon: 28 Sept: Job 1:6-22

Luke 9:46-50

Tues: 29 Sept: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

John 1:47-51

Wed: 30 Sept: Job 9:1-13, 14-16

Luke 9:57-62

Thurs: 1 Oct: Job 19:21-27

Luke 10:1-12

Fri : 2 Oct: Ex 23:20-23

Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Sat: 3 Oct: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17

Luke 10:17-24

Sun: 4 Oct, 27th Sunday in Ord Time

Isaiah 5:1-7

Phil 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

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