



Learning from Nicodemus

Nicodemus is at the centre of today's Gospel.

He is a very interesting character. He was a Pharisee and a member of Sanhedrin - the supreme court of the Jews. He appears just three times in the Gospel (all in John).

The first time Nicodemus appears is in the Gospel passage we are reading today. He had heard the kind of things Jesus was saying and doing and was impressed. To him it was clear that the hand of God was in them. So he wanted to meet him. He came to see Jesus under cover of darkness, which suggests that he did not want to be seen. Given the fact he was a Pharisee, it was a wonder he came at all. Jesus honoured him with a long interview.

By the time Nicodemus was at his second appearance, opposition to Jesus had hardened. The Pharisees had made up their minds to kill him and were ready to do so without even giving him a trial. But Nicodemus intervened, declaring that Jesus should at least be given a fair hearing as the law demanded. This was a more public involvement with Jesus.

The third time Nicodemus appears was on Good Friday in the evening. He was present at the burial of Jesus and provided a large quantity of expensive spices for his burial. After that we hear no more about him.

What can we deduce about Nicodemus from these three brief appearances?

The first appearance shows that he was an open-minded man and a genuine seeker of the truth. The second appearance shows that he was a fair-minded man insisting that Jesus should not be condemned without a trial. The third appearance shows that he was a wealthy man but also generous and compassionate.

We see growth in his relationship with Jesus. He begins by showing an interest and wanting to know about him. He goes on to defend him in public. And by assisting at his burial he is seen to associate with him at his hour of shame and humiliation.

We are not told if Nicodemus became a disciple of Jesus. But it is clear that he was moving in the right direction. John portrays him as progressively leaving the darkness and coming into the light.

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PARISH NEWS

Palm Sunday

There will be a procession (only applies to the 9am mass) around the church with palms preceding the mass on **Sunday 24 March**. Please bring your own palm to be blessed.

Holy Week & Easter

Holy Thursday

7pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration at Altar of Repose in the Parish classroom till 11pm.

Good Friday

9am: Stations of the Cross (in church)

10.30am: Stations of the Cross (in church)

3pm: The Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday

7pm: Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

9am & 10.30am masses

(No 5pm mass)

Easter Monday

9am mass

David Cockerton



A special thank you to Matt Johnston and Ida Crawley for the lovely gift and Margaret Newcombe for the beautiful ceremony held on Sunday 25 February.

DIOCESE NEWS

Memorial Mass

A memorial mass will be held at Holy Cross Parish, Henderson **Wed 13 March 7.30pm** to commemorate Fr Mario Dorado's first death anniversary. He was our Parish Priest from 2013 to 2016. A shared tea and light refreshments will follow after mass at the Holy Cross Parish Pastoral Centre. All welcome.

Loving God

I feel the pace quicken, the time draws near.

I am filled with joy as I move towards Easter

and the promised reconciliation with you.

Teach me to follow the example of your Son.

Help me to live each day as he did turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.

I await the new life of the resurrection with a deep gratitude.

Nāku noa, nā

Sr Siân Owen

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Mass Times

Monday: 9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm
Wed: Novena 6pm
Friday: 9am
First Friday: 6.30pm
Saturday: 5pm Vigil
Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment.
Please contact the parish office.**

The Book of Job

Dr Israel McGrew (PhD Asst Prof of Sacred Scripture) will be giving a lecture on *The Book of Job - 5 Things to Know Before Reading* **Wed 20 March 6pm-8.30pm** at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby. For more info please email Jelvine Cortez: j.cortez@tekupenga.org.nz or go to the website www.tekupenga.ac.nz Zoom link available.

Stations of the Cross Procession

You are invited to a procession on **Good Friday 29 March** which will start at Albert Park Rotunda 9am and will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral 11am. Join us for this powerful public witness of faith through the streets of Auckland. For more info please email Sam: samuelb@cda.org.nz

If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday.

Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Yvonne Sommers, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lili, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Barbara Lynch, Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Aaron Ablan, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,184.50

Parish - \$ 1,891.10

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 11 Mar: Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54 Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

Tue 12 Mar: Ezek 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5: 5-16 Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

Wed 13 Mar: Is 49:8-15

Jn 5:17-30 Ps 144:8-9, 13-14,

Thu 14 Mar: Ex 32:7-14

Jn 5:31-47 Ps 105:19-23

Fri 15 Mar: Wis 2:1, 12-22

Jn 7:25-30 Ps 33:16, 18, 19-21

Sat 16 Mar: Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-52 Ps 7:2-3, 9-12

Sun 17 Mar: Jer 31:31-34

Heb 5:7-9 Ps 50:3-4, 12-15

Jn 12:20-30

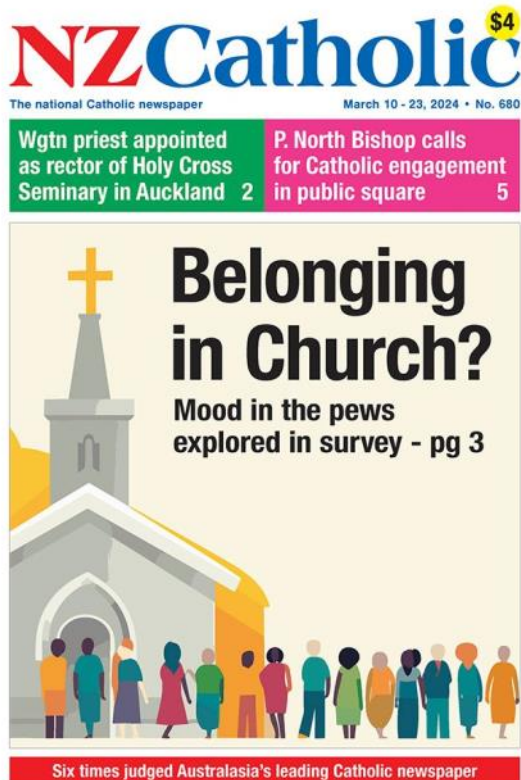
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We can learn by reflecting on Nicodemus. We can admire his qualities and try to do the same. His story shows us that we need to grow in our relationship with Christ. And that we need to deepen our commitment to him and to the values of the Gospel. This will involve a journey out of darkness into the light.

We should not be afraid or ashamed to openly confess our faith in Jesus and to be ready to pay whatever price is required for doing so. Those who believe in Jesus will not be lost but will have eternal life.

But it is not simply a matter of believing but of living according to that belief.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage

The ecumenical partners of Auckland and Christians in more than 100 cities around the world, have come together and launched the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Stations of the Cross. This is to pray, raise awareness and assist the suffering people in Gaza. More info is available at:

www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com

Scroll down the page to 'Join a Walk' and click on Aotearoa/NZ for updated details of the pilgrimage.

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