



Companions

At times we need to be alone; the soul requires solitude in order to maintain its individuality. But to be alone as a permanent condition is not a good thing. Human beings are social by nature. We need other people in our lives and to feel this need is not a sign of sickness but of health.

Our greatest need is for companionship. There is a lot of loneliness in the world today. Many people are crying out for companionship. The word 'companion' comes from two Latin words: *cum* which means 'with' and *panis* which means 'bread'. So a companion literally means someone with whom you share bread. Two people who have shared bread would never think of themselves as strangers again.

When people invite us to their table they are offering us more than food. They are offering us hospitality, trust and friendship. We feel nourished, not only in the body, but also in heart and in spirit.

This brings us to the Eucharist - the meal the Lord asked us to celebrate in his memory. It is the Lord who invites us to this meal. By inviting us to partake of the sacred food of the Eucharist, Jesus makes us his companions and friends.

When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we relive the experience of the apostles at the Last Supper when Jesus said to them, 'No longer do I call you servants..... instead I have called you friends' (Jn 15:15).

In becoming friends with Jesus we ought to become companions and friends to one another. But does this happen in practice? If a person would come to mass and goes away without making contact with anyone, can such a person say that he has truly been to mass?

If we were able to go into the room where Jesus ate the last supper with his apostles, we would immediately get a sense of bonding. Here was a group of companions sitting around a table sharing a meal.

We cannot be in communion with Jesus without being in communion with one another. In church people tend to sit as far apart as possible. We are in the same space but are not really together.

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PARISH NEWS

Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Adoration and Benediction (in church)
Sunday 02 June (2pm-4pm).
Everyone is invited to spend some
time with our Lord.

Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Saturday 08 June - Rosary at 8.30am
followed by Mass at 9am.

DIOCESE NEWS

St Francis Retreat Centre

Behold the Man ~ a retreat for men
with Fr Michael Therese CSJ **Fri 07
June 7pm - Sun 09 June 4.30pm.**
To register your interest and for more
info, email retreats@sfrc.org.nz

Young Adults Ball 2024

The theme for this year is *Wonderland*.
Saturday 14 September 7pm-11pm at
Muhughs of Cheltenham,
46 Cheltenham Rd, Auckland. Early
bird tickets on sale now. Go to
[AKCYM Facebook Page](#) to get your
ticket or email felicitym@cda.org.nz
for more info.

***We turn to you God of Communion
and pray with open hands and
hearts, that our sharing at the
Eucharistic table may bring us
strength and nourishment.
That we might serve the world by
embodying you with the love we
show each other.***

Sr Siân Owen
Leader Pastoral Services, CDA

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.**

Legion of Mary

Senior Legion of Mary (Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium) ~ every Wednesday
7.10pm in the classroom

Senior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium) ~ every Friday 7.00pm
in the classroom

Junior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium) ~ every Sunday
11.30am-1.00pm in the classroom (under 18)

Blessed Virgin Mary

Would you like the Blessed Virgin Mary to visit your home?

Members of The Legion of Mary can leave her statue at your place for 2 weeks.

Gather the whole family and pray the rosary daily. Receive a special protection and greatest blessings through her intercession. If you are interested, please contact [Marilyn on 021 299 4357](tel:0212994357)

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, Aaron Ablan,
Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea,
Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,541.70

Parish - \$ 2,517.30

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 03 Jun: 2 Pet 1:2-7

Mk 12:1-12 Ps 90:1-2, 14-16

Tue 04 Jun: 2 Pet 3:11-15, 17-18

Mk 12:13-17 Ps 89:2-4, 10, 14, 16

Wed 05 Jun: 2 Tim 1:1-3, 6-12

Mk 12:18-27 Ps 122:1-2

Thu 06 Jun: 2 Tim 2:8-15

Mk 12:28-34 Ps 24:4-5, 8-10, 14

Fri 07 Jun: Eph 3:8-12, 14-19

Is 12:2-6 Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9

Sat 08 Jun: Is 61:9-11

Lk 2:41-51 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8

Sun 09 Jun: Gen 3:9-15

Ps 129 2 Cor 4:13 - 5:1

Mk 3:20-35

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A person could come to mass broken and no one would know.

Story

A priest working in England tells about a young man he met in Brixton prison when he was the Catholic chaplain there. The young man came to every mass in the prison. Clearly faith and a sense of belonging meant a lot to him.

The day before he was released he told the priest he would go to mass every Sunday in his local parish. About two months later, the priest met him again; he was back in Brixton prison. He greeted the priest warmly, though sadly. He told him that he had gone to mass every Sunday for three weeks; but nobody spoke to him. After mass, everyone went away and he felt so alone.

Flor McCarthy SDB

NZ Catholic

Message from Bishop Steve

NZ Catholic and its predecessors, the *Tablet* from Dunedin and the *Zealandia* have been part of our Catholic print media since 1873. Like all other newspapers Catholic has been impacted by falling circulation subscribers.

Now, with less than a thousand subscribers, it has reached the point where it is no longer sustainable to publish a printed Catholic newspaper and it is my sad duty to inform you that the issue published on 30 June will be the last printed fortnightly edition of the NZ Catholic. At this time it is right to give thanks for the work of the NZ Catholic staff (past & present). They have been amazing. They have told the stories of our Church and society. They have published the joys and sorrows of people's lives. They have sincerely used the written word to point to Jesus Christ the Word.

Thank you also to the contributors from across the country and the parishes. While this might mark the end of a regular printed newspaper, the Diocese remains committed to sharing our Catholic news and stories so we intend developing a new monthly digital publication with enhanced use of video. I ask for your prayerful support as we make this transition. Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd, **Bishop Stephen Lowe**.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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