

Mercy Parish-Whānau Aroha

18th August
2019

Parish Office:
Address:

Lynlea Forbes, email: mercy.parish@xtra.co.nz
24 Forbury Road, Dunedin 9012;
Phone: 455 8933 Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9am-2pm
Fr Gerard Aynsley, email: gerard.aynsley@gmail.com, ph 021580610
or ph 4259690
Fr Sani Lam, sunctuslst@gmail.com, ph. 021840259 or 4259289

Parish Priests:

Sunday Masses at St Patrick's Basilica

18th August 2019 Year C	25th August 2019 Year C
20th Sunday in Ord Time Year C	21st Sunday In Ord Time Year C
6.00pm Basilica (Vigil)	6.00pm Basilica (Vigil)
9.30 am	9.30 am
11.00 am	11.00 am
11.00 am Broad Bay	

**Weekday Masses in the
Mercy Chapel
Monday - Saturday at 9.00 am**

**School Masses
St Bernadette's 9.10 am Thursdays
St Brigid's 10 am Fridays**

Mass Intentions *Please contact the Parish Office or
place in an envelope in the collection tray if wishing to
arrange for a Mass to be offered, specifying the pre-
ferred day and place.*

Reconciliation: 11.30-12 noon Saturday in the Basilica
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
11.00am—12 noon
First Saturday of the month in the Mercy Chapel

Refusing neutrality

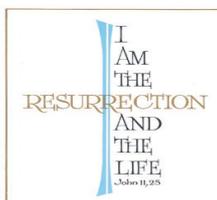
I must confess, that when I look at this Sunday's gospel I am pleased that I am away for the weekend and so not required to prepare a homily: "Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!" This is tricky! The following quote from Pope Francis goes some way toward making sense of the gospel:

"God has a real face, God has a name: God is mercy, God is faithfulness, God is life which is given to us all. For this reason Jesus says "I came to bring division". It is not that Jesus wishes to split people up. On the contrary Jesus is our peace, he is our reconciliation! But this peace is not the peace of the tomb, it is not neutrality, Jesus does not bring neutrality, this peace is not a compromise at all costs. Following Jesus entails giving up evil and selfishness and choosing good, truth and justice, even when this demands sacrifice and the renunciation of our own interests." - Pope Francis

Refusing neutrality! There are so many instances that require from us a response, when we must take a stand. Over the past year, many of us have made submissions to oppose David Seymour's 'End of Life' bill. We are now being encouraged to make submissions in defense of the unborn, upholding the unborn child's dignity and humanity in response to proposed changes to abortion legislation. We are increasingly being challenged to make practical adjustments to our lives in response to the environmental crisis. And in response to Jesus' vision of the reign of God we cannot remain neutral in the face of any instance of human suffering and need. For example, as a parish have refused to be neutral about the suffering of refugees and have sought to respond in practical ways. Early on, there were voices of opposition to this stance, just as there are voices of opposition (even derision!) when we take a stand on the environment or about abortion or about euthanasia.

It is important, however, that in refusing neutrality we speak the truth with love. One of our parishioners emailed me this reflection on a talk given by visiting lecturer, Alison Phipps at the Mornington Methodist Church on Tuesday night. She proposes a powerful way of thinking about how we speak truth with love.

"She was talking about the fact that we don't have a refugee crisis but a hospitality crisis and that integration is a question of mutual reciprocal hospitality, which is life-giving. She also spoke about lack of welcome to refugees, anger and asking fellow Christians- if this is our Gospel teaching, where were you? However, wise Buddhists told her that's not a good question to ask, as it comes from anger, not a place of love. People won't change with that question being thrown at them. We change by being offered different models one small fragment at a time and hearing the echoes from other people. We change through beauty and our proximity to beauty. She spoke a bit about Pope Francis and Caritas Internationale modelling hospitality. If we wrap words, beauty and care around people, we 'sacramentalise' their experience as they are wrapped in hospitality and feel safe."



**We Prayerfully Remember
those who have died recently
Peter Fahey**

**and those who have anniversaries at this time
Des Davies
Ruby Hessian
Cresencia Roman
Catherine Scally
Verna Luyten
Alma Delahunty
Kevin McCormack**

Fr Gerard



St Vincent de Paul Coffee Friendship Group

will meet at the cafe at the Mitre 10 Store, Anderson's Bay Road on Wednesday 21st August at 10am.

All are welcome.

A Big Thank you from
St Vincent de Paul Dunedin

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our foodbank over the past few weeks.

The response has been amazing and we really appreciate all the help and support we receive.

St Joseph's Catholic School, Levin – 100th Reunion & Celebration

Celebrating 100 Years as a Catholic School Community in Levin we are calling all past and present students, staff, teachers and whānau to join us for this once-in-a lifetime weekend of celebration and remembrance.

Saturday 1 Feb – Sunday 2 Feb, 2020

St Joseph's Catholic School, Weraroa Road, Levin

For more information or to register:

Social www.facebook.com/StJosephsLevin100Years

Call 021 889 583 (Stasia) or 06 368 8017 (School)

Email 100years@stjoeslevin.school.nz

Dunedin Catholic Schools Kahui Ako Cultural Evening

Kavanagh College School Gymnasium

Tuesday 24th September 2019

6.30 – 7.30 pm

See Poster on Notice Board

Philomena's Ex Pupils Association:

St Philomena's Ex Pupils Association Annual Mass will be held at St Patrick's Basilica on Sunday 18th August at 11:00am, followed by our Annual General Meeting at the Mercy Centre next door to the Basilica.

Hot soup and bread

This coming Thursday is the last day that we will be having Soup and Bread.

Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to make this a successful way of sharing as a community.

We are in the process of thinking about what we can do as a community during the spring and summer months. If you have any idea please let Jerry O'Farrell know.



Sick and Housebound Parishioners:

If you are unable to come to Mass on a Sunday or know of parishioners who are no longer able to come to Mass please let us know so Holy Communion can be taken to them. **Please contact the Parish Office, Ph. 455 8933 or Adrienne Ryan, Ph. 476 1520**

24/25 August	Vigil	9.30am Mass	11.00am
Team Leader	Jill Mangos	Colin MacLeod	Ed Hayes
Greeters	Tony Cossens	George Strong Pauline Strong	Maria Parsons
Readers	John Chapman	Sandra Boock	Sia Lei
Prayers of the faithful	Mary Glass Derrick Railton	Colin MacLeod Chris Denton	Martin Lei
Projector	George Morris		Ray Paterson
Off/Collection	John Fitzgibbon Peter Rielly	Delaney Family Ben Anderson	Maria Parsons Letty De Bono
Altar Servers		Hermione & Halaina Sparks Isadora & Alasdair McLean	Matanofu Taua Shalia Kelekolio
Eucharistic Ministers	C Crothers Jill Mangos Rob Duffy	Bill Brown Mary Snelling A-M Taylor	Letty De Bono D Jacobson Maggi Tupu
Sacristan	Mary Vincent	Mary Snelling A-M Taylor	June Watt Maria Parsons
Childrens Liturgy		Kerry Davis	
Morning Tea		Claire & Daryl	Sua Family
Counters		S & D Boock C & R Clark	

PROLIFE FACTS

A special select committee has been set up to investigate Labour's abortion Bill. It is now receiving public submissions until Thursday 19 September. Voice for Life has published a step by step submission guide: read the guide on Facebook or on their website at voiceforlife.org.nz/blog/how-to-make-your-submission-on-labours-abortion-bill.

For more pro-life information visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

