

Maria Assumpta Parish Bulletin

MARIA ASSUMPTA CATHOLIC CHURCH
198 Beach Haven Road, Auckland 0626
www.beachhavencatholic.org.nz

SUNDAY MASS: 8am, 10am

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 10am-12pm

WEEKDAY MASS: 9am - Tuesday to Saturday

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Contact Parish priest

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact Parish priest

Parish Priest: Fr Aleki Piula

Email: alekipiula@yahoo.co.nz

Presbytery Phone: 483 7919

Parish Secretary: Marc Theron

Email: secretary@mariaassumpta.org.nz

Parish Office: CLOSED—please email

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: CLOSED during COVID19

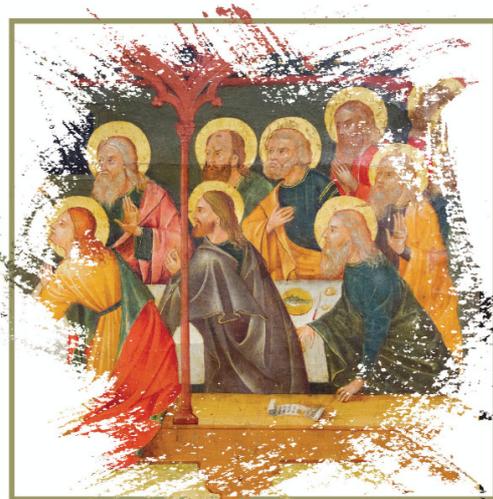
**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
22 August 2021**

**First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18
Psalm: 34**

**Second Reading: Esphesians 5:21-32
Gospel: John 6:60-69**

Reflection by Fr Aleki Piula

When darkness comes, will you also leave me?



Today is our 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B our theme for all reading is the way to survive in life is not to focus on our problems, but to focus on Jesus. In our today's gospel we read how many people left Jesus, and walked no more with him. Many still leave him. But by the grace of God we are here.

Each Sunday gives us an opportunity to confirm our faith in him who alone has the words of eternal life. In a true sense is about our Christian's faith or Christian life it is a series of daily choices for God or against God, as we choose to live out or reject the trust revealed through his prophets in the Old Testament and through His only Son Jesus Christ in the New Testament. So the fundamental choice we make determines how we live our lives and deciding whom we will serve.

In the first reading from the book of Joshua is a challenge to the Israelites from Joshua to decide whether they will serve the gods of their fathers, or the God of the Israelites who has done so much for them. He confronts the people with a vital decision to serve the one true God or to serve false gods. It deals with a covenant-renewal ceremony that took place at Shechem shortly after the people had entered the promises land. Joshua called upon them to make a choice: to serve the God of their fathers or to serve other gods. All the tribes of Israel declared, "We will serve the Lord".

Today's Psalm 34 reminds us about the decision time of our faith that the Eucharist is a covenant meal. It sings, 'Taste and see the Goodness of the Lord. In John's discourse on the bread of life ends with a division of the ways: the unbelievers drift away while the believers stay. Simon Peter speaks on behalf of the believers: 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life'.

This may be the moment that Jesus referred to when he said at the last supper discourse: "You are pruned already by means of the word that I have spoken to you" (John 15:3).

***Welcome - Malo e lelei - Bula Vinaka - Talofa lava - Mabuhay - Bienvenue
Nei hou ma - Anneunghaseyo - Ayu Bowan - Willkommen - Welkom
Haere mai! Nau mai! Whakatau mai!***

It was also a time of decision for Joshua's people in the first reading. Psalm 34 selected for today also see an opposition of ways. The wicked (sinners) go one way, the Just another. 'The Lord turns his face against the wicked. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal'. The lot of believers is not necessarily an easy path. The psalm speaks of distress, being broken-hearted, crushed in spirit, suffering many trials. But they are assured that the Lord sees and hears. It is similar to the beatitudes, which declare the blessing of God on the poor in spirit, the gentle, the oppressed and persecuted.

But their consolations are all promised in the future tense. The Lord turns his face to us in a very special way by the gift of the Eucharist. Faith tells us that the Lord is our companion through his body given up for us and his blood shed in the new covenant. Companion literally means one who shares bread with me. 'Taste and see that the Lord is good'.

In the second reading a letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, he uses the image of a marriage relationship to express the bond that exists between Christ and the Church. This relationship is a choice to make like a husband-wife relationship to build up life on mutual respect and love of accepting each other's rights and dignity. He also reminds us that Jesus nourishes us, the members of His Church, through the Eucharist it makes us his own flesh and blood like husband and wife become one flesh.

In today's gospel, the disciples of Jesus are faced with a vital decision to stay with Jesus or to leave him. In a similar way Jesus called upon the people who had listened to his discourse on the Bread of Life to make up their minds whether or not they were going to believe in him and follow him. Sadly, apart from the twelve, many deserted him. Even among the Twelve a traitor lurked. Even though Jesus was sad to see those people leaving him, he let them go. It wasn't great crowds that excited him. What mattered to him and what should matter to the Church was the authenticity and sincerity of those who stayed. Just as Mark's account of the ministry in Galilee ends on a note of disbelief, so it is here. And Peter's reaction we have John's parallel to the synoptic scene at Caesarea Philippi.

In concluding of John's long Eucharistic discourse, Jesus challenges his Jewish and His later apostles in today's gospel, to make their choice, to accept Him as the true Bread from Heaven who gives them His Body and Blood as their Heavenly Food or to join those who lost their faith in him, expressing their confusion and doubts about His claims. So many of his disciples leave him but the apostles freely choice to stay with Jesus, Simon Peter spoke on behalf of the Apostles, 'Lord, to whom shall we go, you have the message of eternal life and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God' (John 6:69). Just like the tribe of Israel must decide whether they will persist in following the Lord God, so must Jesus' disciples consider their future in the face of a difficult teaching?

In both cases the memory of divine fidelity is integral to their decision to stay the course. For the Israelites remember the faithful God who delivered them from the slavery in Egypt and now Simon Peter admits that there only surely option is to trust what they already have come to believe in Jesus has the message of eternal life.

Because he is the Holy One of God. In reality Crossroads are part of our live too. On those days when being faithful involves a difficult or unpopular choice to be made, may the deep memory of God's steadfast love anchor our commitment and see us through.

As we enter into this new first week during our lockdown we speak together with Saint Paul: 'I may have the gift of inspired preaching. I may have all the faith needed to move mountains, but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have... but if I have no love, this does me no good. ' Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous our conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs. Love never gives up. Love is eternal. It is love, then, that you should strive for' (1 Corinthians 13:2-8; 14:1).

Wishing you stay home safely and healthy during this level 4 lockdown and looking forward to see you all.

God Bless
Fr Aleki

Announcements :

PLEASE SCAN in using QR CODE.

- Our Church and Office is **CLOSED** until further notice. I hope you all stay home safe and healthy may God bless you always.
- If you wish to contact me, don't hesitate to call me on (09) 483 7919 (Presbytery).

IF YOU SEE COVID-19 MISINFORMATION

1 DON'T ENGAGE

If you reply, share, or quote misinformation, you help to spread it.

2 BLOCK THEM

If someone you don't know is sharing misinformation, block them.

3 MESSAGE PRIVATELY

If someone you know is sharing misinformation, message them privately and ask them not to.

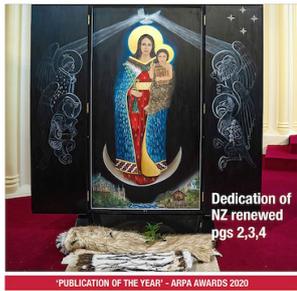
4 REPORT

Report misinformation to platforms or group admins asking them to remove that content.

5 INSTEAD, SPREAD OFFICIAL ADVICE

Drown out fake news by sharing official scientific advice, as well as posts promoting good causes in tough times.

NZ in Mary's care



We are providing, free of charge, a digital link to the latest issue.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/ac3b7938-55ec-43ec-a0b9-3c02cb565718>



Love your neighbour as yourself, get vaccinated

Arohaina koe ki tōu hoa tata, ānō ko koe

Support the Covid-19 vaccination programme

The FREE Pfizer vaccine is now being offered to members of the public, starting with those most at risk.

The Catholic Bishops are urging you to get vaccinated to protect yourself, your whanau and your community. You will also be protecting those who cannot receive the vaccination; those with underlying health conditions who would be at higher risk of catching the virus and young children. **Get vaccinated!**

Arohaina koe ki tōu hoa tata, ānō ko koe, me whai i te rongoā āraimate.

E aro'a atu i to tangata tupu. Aere atu i te patia paruru. Mahalin mo ang iyong kapwa, magpabakuna.

Ofa ki ho'o kaungā'api, 'o hangē ko ho'o 'ofa kiate koe; huhu malu'i leva.

Afai e te alofa i lou tua'oi, aua ne'i mava le fa'ama'i, ona fai lea o lou tui puipui.



The Maria Assumpta conference of St Vincent de Paul thanks parishioners for your ongoing support. Will you help us to serve the poor? **We need members** and volunteers who will deliver food parcels, collect and drop off furniture, staff one of the two shops, and listen to and help the poor. We also need some members with good computer skills. If you are interested, speak to Charles or Chris, or call one of the shops. You are also welcome to come along to one of our meetings, which happen after the 8 am Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

You can leave food donations in the basket at the back of the church before Mass on Sundays or you can contact one of us and we will arrange to collect them from you.

Clothing and household items can be donated at the Ellice Road or Beach Haven shops during shop hours. If you wish to assist us more, or if you know of someone needing assistance, please contact either Chris (020 4139 5170), Charles (022 0242 753), or the Beach Haven shop (482 3017).



The church does not close, only the building. Because we are the church, the living body of our Lord Jesus and we are everywhere.



Website for Te Ara a Maria: Mary's Way project

A website has been created to help promote the bishops' renewal of the dedication of the country to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven.

The renewal project has the title Te Ara a Maria: Mary's Way and runs for 12 months from 15 August.

Go here for the website: www.tearaamaria.nz

The website contains details of the project. It will be updated regularly to include the schedule of the nationwide hikoi of the artwork created for the project. The hikoi starts on August 18 in Invercargill.



"Young People, you are not the tomorrow, you are not the 'meantime', you are the Now of God." - Pope Francis

Auckland Catholic Young Adults Community

An awesome community for those who are wanting to deepen their Catholic faith.

Follow their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM/>) or website (www.akyouth.org.nz) for more info.



Life Teen Summer Camp

Auckland is happening from **14-18 January 2022** at YMCA Camp Adair, Hunua. Inviting all

those 18+ years to join us for the best camp ever and serve in a variety of roles as we lead teens closer to Christ. If you have time or a heart of service or a gift or talent to share, we have a place for you.



Contact us: summercamp@cda.org.nz or www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/acym/ltsac22

GLORY TO GOD

Tony Alonso

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, on earth peace to people of good will.*

Verse 1: We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly king,
O God almighty Father. *(Refrain)*

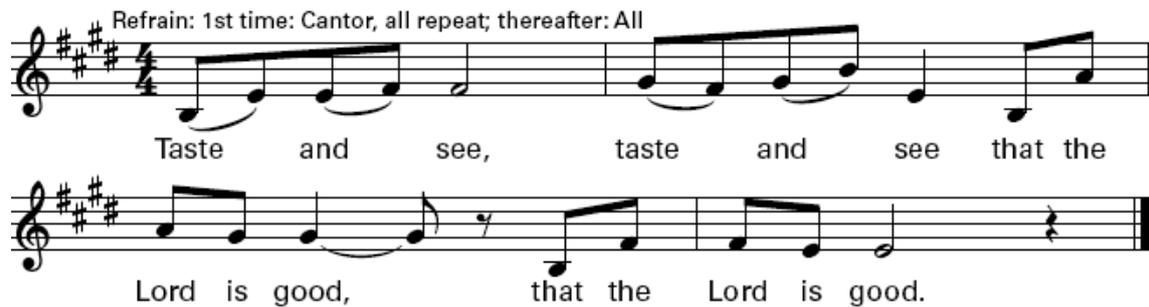
Verse 2: Cantor/Choir

Verse 3: For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father.

TASTE AND SEE

Janet Sullivan Whitaker

Refrain: 1st time: Cantor, all repeat; thereafter: All



Taste and see, taste and see that the
Lord is good, that the Lord is good.

1. I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise ever in my mouth.
My soul shall glory in the LORD;
and the lowly will hear me and be glad.
2. Glorify the LORD with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
3. Look to him that you might be
radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out,
the LORD heard,
and from all distress he saved him.
4. Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the
glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.
5. The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;
you open your hand and satisfy
the desire of ev'ry living thing.
6. The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call upon him in truth.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



For my yoke is easy

MY BURDEN LIGHT

Matthew 11:30

God is with us wherever we
are...
even in the midst of a
pandemic.
Be strong, go well.