



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

## AVARUA RAROTONGA

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

PHONE: (682) 26113

### SUNDAYS MASSESS

9.00 AM Maori  
10.30 AM English  
5.30 PM ADORATION/BENEDICTION

### WEEKDAY MASSES

7.00 AM MON.-FRI.  
8.00AM SATURDAY  
CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

### St Joseph's Cathedral Parish:

**Parish Priest:** Bishop Paul Donoghue, sm.

**Phone:** (682) 20817: Office  
(682) 20692: Residence

### St Joseph's Cathedral Parish Council:

Chair: Carl Glassie  
Assistants: Joe Caffrey/Ron atia  
Treasurer: Unakea Kauvai  
Assistant: Julia K. Cowan  
Secretary: Mousie Skews  
Assistant: Ruta Tomokino

### Sunday Readings for June:

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. (Corpus Christi) First Comm. Sunday for the Parish. Only ONE Mass at 10.00am.**

### **Readings:**

1. Exodus 24: 3 – 8
2. Hebrews 9: 11 – 15
3. Mark 14: 12 – 16, 22 – 26

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June:** 11<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Ordinary Time.

### **Readings:**

1. Ezekiel 17: 22 – 24
2. 2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 10
3. Mark 4: 26 – 34

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June:** 12<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Ordinary Time

### **Readings:**

1. Job 38: 1, 8 – 11
2. 2 Corinthians 5: 14 -17

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June:** 13<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Ordinary Time.

### **Readings:**

1. Wisdom 1: 13 -15, 2: 23-24
2. Cor. 8:7, 9, 13-15
3. Mark 5: 21 -43

### **Feastdays during the month of June:**

Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> June: St Justin Martyr.  
Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> June: St Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs.  
Frid. 5<sup>th</sup> June: St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

### **Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> June: St Barnabas, Apostle**

Born in the island of Cyprus, he was one of the first converts in Jerusalem and preached at Antioch. He became a companion of St Paul and went with him on his first missionary journey, and he took part in the Council of Jerusalem. He returned to his naïve land to preach the gospel and there he died.

### **Frid. 12<sup>th</sup> June: Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

**Readings:** Hosea 11: 1, 3 – 4

1. Ephesians 3: 8-12, 14-19
2. John 19: 31 – 37

### **Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> June: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

### **Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June: St Romuald, Abbot.**

Born in Ravenna about the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, he embraced the life of a hermit. For many years he went from place to place seeking true solitude, and built a number of small monasteries. He fought against the depraved morals of many of the monks at the time and by the exercise of virtue advanced along the path of perfection. He died about the year 1027.

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.

First communion is to be celebrated in our Cathedral parish on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.(June 7<sup>th</sup>) Recently Pope Francis reminded us bishops that it is important for children to properly prepare for their first communion, so that there is no child without this sacrament. The Eucharist is a firm step towards Jesus, along with Baptism and Confirmation.

## **FIRST COMMUNION.**

First communion is considered one of the holiest and most important occasions in a Roman catholic person's life. Most of us can remember the day well. It is the first time that a person receives the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, which is the eating of the consecrated bread. Catholics believe this to be the body of Christ. Most children receive their first communion when they are 8 or 9 years old because this is considered the age of reason. Other people can receive communion for the first time whenever they have met all the Catholic Church's requirements. I am pleased to see we have adults preparing for first communion.

## **PREPARATION.**

For anyone to receive communion, that person must be considered to be without serious sin and in a state of grace. Traditionally, young Catholic children will make their first confession, also called the Sacrament of Penance, a short time before receiving their first communion. At confession, the child will tell his or her sins and misdeeds to a priest and receive a penance in exchange. The penance is usually recited immediately after the confession itself. After this confession with

sin having been forgiven the child is ready for their first communion.

Confession isn't the only requirement for receiving the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.; the sacrament of Baptism must have been received as well. A child, or any person, who has not been baptised can not receive communion. If the child has been baptised, he or she generally begins studying for the First communion at least Grade 4. Catholic children who don't attend St. Joseph's join special classes arranged for them after school.

On the day of one's first communion, and receiving communion thereafter, those who are partaking must fast – which means not eating any food, for at least one hour before receiving the sacrament. Drinking water, or taking medicine, however, are exceptions. Given a Sunday mass takes around an hour it is easy to observe the hour of fasting. However, for a weekday mass we would need to stop eating a half hour before given these masses last about 30 minutes.

## **MEANING,.**

A child's first communion is often a cause for celebration, but to many Catholics, the event has a deeper meaning. They believe that the event means that a child has studied and understood, to the best of his or her ability, what Catholics call the mystery of Transubstantiation – meaning the changing of the substance of ordinary bread and wine in the substance of Jesus Christ's body and blood, according to Catholic beliefs. Catholics believe that, before receiving communion, a child also should be able to tell the difference between Eucharistic bread and regular food.

## Comments.

**PARENTS.** It is timely to remind ourselves that parents (in the absence of parents, guardians and god-parents) that they are the primary educators of their children. The school and teachers assist the parents in this role, and it would be disappointing if parents opt out of this and leave it entirely to the teachers. Teachers need the example of parents here.

**MOTHERS.** I find challenging Pope Francis' words here addressed to mothers. 'A society without mothers', the Pope said, would be an "inhuman society" 'because even in the darkest moments mothers are witnesses of tenderness, dedication and moral strength'. 'Mothers' - he continued - 'are the ones who transmit the deep sense of the practice of religion, the first prayers, the first gestures of devotion. The value of faith in the life of a human being is a message that mothers transmit without having to give too many explanations'. He said that 'explanations come later, but the germ of faith is in those first, precious moments of life, and without mothers', Francis pointed out, 'not only there would be no new faithful, but faith itself would lose a good part of its simple and profound warmth.'

## FIRST CONFESSION

For many today it is their first and last? When I was ordained a priest in 1975 many people were overly concerned about sin and every time they went to communion they first went to confession. We treated every misdeed as a serious sin. In getting over that have we gone to the other extreme and now claim we never seriously sin!!!! In our diocese at least twice a year we have nights for confession when you have a choice of confessors for confession. Sometimes we get a good number attending. Other times hardly any one turns up. I remind you confession is still very much part of our catholic tradition and has a valuable place.

**EVANGELISERS.** "That there be no child misses out on making first communion." I ask leaders in taperes and catechists to check whether there are children in their tapere who are old enough to make their first communion. Even if they are not at St. Joseph's they should be prepared. This is an example of evangelisation. The good news has to reach the ends of the earth.

Contributed by Bishop Paul Donoghue

## EUCARISTIC SERVICES FOR JUNE.

DATE	SUNDAY	EUCARISTIC SERVICE.
17 <sup>TH</sup> May	Ascension Sunday.	St. Paul's Titikaveka. Service 10.30 am
24 <sup>TH</sup> May	Pentecost Sunday.	Mass at every parish at normal time.
31 <sup>ST</sup> May	Trinity Sunday	Mass at every parish at normal time.
7 <sup>TH</sup> June	Body and Blood of Christ (First Communion Cathedral)	Sacred Heart, Matavera Service Cathedral one Mass at 10.00 a.m. Mass at Titikaveka at 9.00 am
14 <sup>TH</sup> June	11 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Cathedral Service 9.00 a.m. Mass at Titikaveka at 9.00 am.
21 <sup>ST</sup> June	12 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Cathedral Service 10.30 a.m.
28 <sup>TH</sup> June.	13 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time.,	St. Mary's Arorangi Service at 10.30 am

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June: St John Fisher, Bishop & St Thomas More, Martyrs.**

John Fisher was born in 1469. He studied theology at the University of Cambridge and was ordained priest. He was appointed Bishop Of Rochester. His life was austere and he became an outstanding pastor of his flock, often visiting them.

Thomas More was born in 1477. He studied at the University of Oxford, married and had a son and three daughters. He was appointed Chancellor of the kingdom. He wrote a number of works about civil affairs and in defence of religion. They resisted the king, Henry VIII, on the question of dissolving his marriage and on the king's orders they were executed in the year 1535, Fisher on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and More on 6<sup>th</sup> July. While Fisher had been held in prison he had been created a cardinal of the Church of Rome by Paul III.

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June: Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist.**

**Readings:**

1. Isaiah 49: 1 -6
2. Acts 13: 22 - 26
3. Luke 1: 57 - 66, 80.

**Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June: Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles:**

**Readings:**

1. Acts 12: 1 - 11
2. 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18
3. Matthew 16: 13 - 19.

**The Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

Jesus died on the Cross because of His great love for us. He appeared to St Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation Sister asking her to spread the devotion to His Sacred Heart. "This heart that has loved men so much but received very little love in return."

**The 12 Promises of Our Lord to St Margaret Mary for Souls Devoted to His Sacred Heart.**

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death
5. I will bestow a large blessing upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall grow fervent.

8. Fervent souls shall quickly rise to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place where a picture of My heart shall be set up and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

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**APPRECIATION**

Our sincere thanks to the Avatiu Tapere Mamas and Catechists who looked after the cleaning of the Cathedral inside and its environs during last month. Thank you to all who braved the cold and rain to be at our Eucharistic celebrations each morning and also for the Recitation of the Rosary. Thanks also to the altar servers and Readers who turned up faithfully each morning. It takes will power to get out of bed when its cold and get to the Cathedral in the dark. Thank You to One and All.

Only in **silence** can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, the woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence.

Verbum Domini (2010) 66.

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, And Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. GIRM 29

**A Reminder:** Procession of Our Lady on 31<sup>st</sup> May beginning from Nukutere College at 5.00 p.m.

- Nukutere: Takuvaine/Tutakimoa Joyful Mys.
- St Joseph's Grotto: Nikao/Panama Sorrowful
- Community Hall: Tupapa: Mystery of Light
- Cathedral: Avatiu/Ruatonga.

Each Tapere is also responsible for decorating the altar/shrine. Please pray much for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life.