



ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

AVARUA RAROTONGA

PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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 Donaghue,sm.

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

Cathedral Administrator: Fr Epiloka Pahia

Phone: (682) 26113: Residence
Mobile:52734

St Joseph's Cathedral Parish Council:

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

Sunday and Feastsdays Readings for March:

Sunday 15th March: 4th Sunday of Lent:

Readings:

1. 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16,1 19-23
2. Ephesians 2: 4-10
3. John 3: 14 – 21.

Thursday, 19th March: Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary, Patron of the Diocese.

Readings:

1. 2 Samuels 7: 4-5, 12-14
2. Romans 4: 13, 16 -18, 22
3. Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24.

The Bible tells us nothing of Joseph in the years after the return to Nazareth except the incident of finding

Jesus in the Temple. But the Bible also pays St Joseph the highest compliment when it calls him a "just" man. By saying this it means that Joseph was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. The "just" man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly, obedient to God in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the unknown number of years of quiet faith and courage.

Wednesday, 25th March: Annunciation of the Lord.

Readings:

1. Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8:10
2. Hebrews 10: 4 – 10
3. Luke: 1: 26 – 38

The feast of the Annunciation by Gabriel to the young Mary, inviting her to be the Lord's Mother

I watched her for some moments before I spoke, Wondering what she was like, this creature, this little one He'd chosen.

(I'd had to check myself when given this message – amazement caught in my throat. Who could grasp this design? This incomprehensible gift?) So I watched her.

In stillness her face was quiet, her eyes clear – no guile in this one. Nearby, a dove murmured, and soft breezes blew roses in the door. Such Perfection I had not seen since Eden.

I marveled that such a one could come to be, could bear Him within her whole self. I knelt – for who could not? Hail full of grace, I said. (Liz Kenyon)

MESSAGE FROM HIS LORDSHIP
BISHOP PAUL DONOGHUE, SM

THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO, HIS EXCELLENCY,
ARCHBISHOP MARTIN KREBS

Today, the Apostolic Nuncio for the Cook Islands, Archbishop Martini Krebs will arrive in the country. An apostolic Nuncio is the personal representative of Pope Francis in a particular Church and in a particular country that has diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Thus the Nuncio has two main functions to fulfil when visiting the Cook Islands.

1. Relating within the Catholic Church of the Cook Islands.
2. Relating with the officials of the Cook Islands especially the Queen's Representative.

Relations within the Church.

The Church role of an apostolic nuncio is to make firm and effective the bonds of unity which exist between the Pope and the Church throughout the world.

1. To inform the apostolic see about the conditions in which the particular church finds itself, and matters which affect the life of the church and the good of souls. Under this heading one could imagine the Nuncio seeking information on how many local priests we have? How many seminarians we have? How many local religious are there in the Diocese? What is the response to the year of Consecrated Life? If there is a shortage of priests how effective are the Catechists?
2. To assist the Bishop action and advice, but not assuming the responsibility reserved for the local bishop. Is the bishop shepherding his flock effectively? Does he have good health? Is he spiritually refreshed?
3. When the time comes to appoint a new bishop, it is the Nuncio's responsibility to help Rome appoint a new bishop. He seeks

information from the diocese concerned and then sends names of possible candidates to Rome, as well as to prepare the informative process about the qualities of those who are to be put forward as possible bishops. This I presume is not a priority for the Diocese of Rarotonga. But it is an urgent priority for the Archdiocese of Tahiti which has been waiting for a bishop for over four years.

4. To promote whatever may contribute to peace, progress, and the united efforts of people. This in my opinion, will be straightforward as Catholics or Christians are not persecuted or prevented from practicing their religion in the Country by any group.
5. To work with the Bishop to safeguard, so far as the rules of country are concerned, those things which relate to the mission of the Church and the Apostolic See. An example would be the decrease in the overall population making parishes very small in number.

Relations with the Country.

First of all you need to understand that what is known as the Vatican is a country or state within Italy. It was established in 1929 and has a population of about 798 people residing in it. On my first trip to Rome as Bishop in 2011 I resided within the Vatican for a week. Vatican City is the smallest independent state in the world in terms of inhabitants and size. It occupies an area of 44 hectares.

The Vatican State is governed as an absolute monarchy. The Head of State is the Pope, who holds full legislative, executive and judicial powers. The Pope is elected by the Cardinals who are under eighty years of age.

The Vatican as a country has its own Post Office with its own stamps. It provides its own security with what is known as the Swiss Guards. For its currency it uses the Euro.

So the Vatican as a state has diplomatic relations with various countries around the world one of which is the Cook Islands.

So the Apostolic Nuncio as an ambassador presents his credentials to the Queen's Representative as any other ambassador would. This is in order to promote and foster relationships between the Vatican and the Cook Islands.

His Excellency, Archbishop Martin Krebs.
Apostolic Nuncio of New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Archbishop Krebs (58) was born in Essen, Germany. He was ordained priest in 1983, and after obtaining a doctorate in Canon Law entered the diplomatic services of the Holy See in 1991.

Archbishop Krebs has wide experience, working in a number of Apostolic Nunciatures in Burundi, Japan, Austria, the Czech Republic, the European Union and the United States of America.

In September 2008 Monsignor Krebs was appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Guinea and Mali. He was ordained Archbishop in November 2008. During his time as Nuncio to Guinea, in 2009 Archbishop Krebs, despite the church appeal for calm, a demonstration against the military junta ended in a 'bloodbath', the military killing 128. Speaking with Vatican Radio after the incident, Archbishop Krebs said Guinea was a small country and urged the world community not to forget the terrible violence that had occurred there.

As well as German, Archbishop Krebs speaks English, Italian, French, Spanish and Czech. His appointment as the Apostolic Nuncio of the Cook Islands was on the 8th of May, 2013.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT.

We get to meet the personal representative of the Pope. While one would expect the normal exchanges of greetings between the local church and Pope Francis, I suggest we be attentive to hear whether he has a special or particular message from the Pope for the Catholic Church of the Cook Islands.

+Bishop Paul Donoghue sm

Announcements.

1. Priests' Meeting on Tuesday the 24th March.
2. Tuesday evening the 24th March there will be a choice of confessors available for those who want to make a Lenten confession.

St Joseph's Cathedral at 7.00 pm.
St Mary's Arorangi. Prior to and after evening Mass at 6.00 pm.
Sacred Heart Matavera, 7.00 pm.
St Paul's Titikaveka, Prior to and after the 6.30 pm. Mass.

3. Wednesday night will be the Chrism Mass.
4. The Thanksgiving Service re end of the cyclone season arranged by RAC will be on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 12th.
5. **Special Collections.** Please remember the **Lenten Appeal Collection** taken up for the needy in CEPAC. Each parish has its own way of handling this collection. I know some parishes have already completed their collection. Last week I sent the three collections for 2014, **Mission Sunday** (October), **St Peter the Apostle** Collection to support the works of the Pope, June 29th and **Holy Childhood** Collection on January 1st to the

representative of the Propagation of the Faith in Fiji, Sr Merieti. I sent the **CCJD Lenten** Appeal to the Secretary of CEPAC Fr John Crispin, too in Fiji. And finally I paid the tuition and board for the first term of our **seminarian** Vincent Peters at Pacific Regional Seminary, which came to more than our annual collection. Thank you for these collections which I note are improving recently.

Programme for Holy Week

Sunday, 29th March: Palm or Passion Sunday:

9.45 a.m.: All Assemble at St Joseph's School.

10.00 a.m. **Blessing the Palms.** This is followed with the Procession of Palms down St Joseph's Road to the Cathedral singing "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Thursday, 2nd April: Thursday of Holy Week.

7.00 p.m.: **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:**

- Washing of the feet and Mass of the Last Supper.
- Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose
- Adoration until Mid-night

Friday, 3rd April: Good Friday of Holy Week.

Day of Fast and Abstinence.

9.00 a.m.: Stations of the Cross

3.00 p.m. : **The Passion of the Lord**

- Liturgy of the Word
- General Intercessions
- Veneration of the Cross
- Holy Communion

Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence meaning no meat for those who have reached the age of 14 and fasting for those who have reached the age of 18.

Saturday, 4th April: - Holy Saturday – No Service in the Morning.

Easter Vigil: begins at 8.00 p.m. (Please bring your own candle for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.)

Service of Light : Blessing of Easter Fire

- Lighting of Easter Candle
- Procession of Easter Candle into the Cathedral.
- Chanting of the Exsultet
- Liturgy of Baptism
- Liturgy of the Eucharist

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT CHILDREN DO NOT PLAY WITH CANDLES. DO NOT DROP CANDLE GREASE ON THE SEATS OR ON THE FLOOR PLEASE.

Sunday, 5th April: Easter Sunday.

ONLY ONE MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL AND WILL BE AT 10.00 A.M.

NO BENEDICTION IN THE EVENING.

APPRECIATION

Our grateful thanks to all those who have been working hard during the last few weeks around the Cathedral, Community Hall, etc. Thank you also to the Mamas who generously provided the kaikai for the working bee. Thank you for your generous service all around. God loves the cheerful giver!

As we look ahead to Easter, we know that a lot of people will be involved in the preparation of the Liturgies during the Holy Week. We can only thank you for your generous service in making sure that all will go well as we prepare to welcome the Risen Lord in our midst on Easter Sunday.

Happy Easter to One and All!

Sing Alleluia, the Lord is Risen
He is risen indeed Alleluia!