



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

## AVARUA RAROTONGA

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

**Nov./Decem. 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)20592 - Residence

#### **St Joseph's Cathedral Parish Council:**

**Chair:** Carl Glassie

**Assistants:** Joe Caffrey/Ron Patia

**Treasurer:** Unakea Kauvai

**Assistant:** Julia K. Cowan

**Secretary:** Mousie Skews

**Assistant:** Ruta Tomokino

## Advent is here

### “Watching and hoping”

“Now we watch for the days, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory. The first Advent Preface highlights two aspects of the season: watching and hoping. The gospel reminder from Jesus that we are to stay awake is extended a little further. We are to remain alert so that we do not miss whatever God wants to say to us. He speaks to us in countless ways. But we are not to be anxious about it. We are watching in fear. In fact Advent is simply bubbling with hope. We know our Saviour is near. The signs in our liturgy, and even in the shops, tell us our expectation of Christmas is not mistaken. The Advent season invites us to look back with gratitude and joy to Christ's coming at Bethlehem. But Advent reminds us too that Christ is with us now as he said he would be; where we gather, in our homes, in the Eucharist, in our hearts too. He is coming first and last is a revelation of love. So we look forward to his final coming in glory not with fear in our hearts but alive with hope.

“ (A quality Parish Storecupboard Red Pub.Newmedia )

**Advent Wreath:** The four candles represent the thousands of years people waited for the coming of the Saviour They also remind us of the four weeks of

Advent before Christmas. Each week we light a candle until all four candles are lit. The wreath is a circle of evergreens, a reminder of the everlasting power and eternity of God. A circle has no beginning or end. Green is the colour of hope and expectation – the spirit of Advent. The first and second candles are purple – a royal colour symbolizing humility and penance, a reminder that now is the time to mend broken relationships. The third candle is pink (rose) signifying joy, happiness and hope. It reminds us that the waiting time will soon be over. The wreath reminds us **that life comes around and goes around;** through it all, God remains with us.

#### **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

**Readings:** 1. Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thess. 3: 12-4:2;  
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

#### **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

**Readings:** 1. Baruch 5: 1-9; Phil. 1: 4-6,8-11  
Luke 3: 1 – 6

#### **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

**Readings:** Zephaniah 3: 14 – 18  
Philippians 4: 4 – 7  
Luke 3: 10 – 18

#### **Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

**Readings:** Micah 5: 1-4; Hebrews 10: 5 – 10  
Luke 1: 39 – 44

## YEAR OF MERCY

This year called by Pope Francis the 1<sup>st</sup> begins on the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and will run until the Feast of Christ the King in 2016.

In our Cathedral Parish, we will open this year on Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

## SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY.

Anyone attending the Cathedral during 2015, would realise the theme for the year has been "Consecrated Life". Each day, after communion, we have prayed the special prayer for Consecrated Life.

Let us recall at the opening of the Year for Consecrated Life, on the first Sunday of Advent, 2015 Pope Francis issued a challenge to consecrated men and women, inviting them to live lives of courage, communion, and joy. The aim of the year was to express the "beauty and preciousness of this unique form" of Christian discipleship. Pope Francis wanted men and women religious to be "shining witness of life will be as a lamp," placed where it can "give light and warmth to all of God's people."

The poster on the front wall of the Cathedral tells us the theme Pope Francis set for the year which is go to "wake up the world," illuminating it with their "prophetic and counter-current witness!"

Fortunately, in our diocese in this very year of Consecrated Life, two of our Sisters are celebrating jubilees. I trust what I write about these two Sisters will resonate with you about what Pope Francis was wanting to achieve in this year of Consecrated Life.

### **Sr Elizabeth sjc. 50 Years of Consecrated Life.**

Elizabeth Marie-Therese Browne-Russell entered the Cluny Sisters in 1963, and was professed Sister Elizabeth Marie-Therese of the Mother of God on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1965. Final profession followed in 1972.

During her earlier years training as a teacher began in Loreto Teachers College and after a few years teaching, further education was obtained at Auckland University.

In 1980, Sister Elizabeth took up teaching at Nukutere College and was also the Deputy Principal. These responsibilities were widened in 1983 when many more tasks were added such as part time bishop's secretary; UNDP and UNESCO Cook Island representative and with the Education department Sr Elizabeth was an Assessment Board member until the end of 1985.

After some more study in Melbourne and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Greece, Sister Elizabeth returned to the Cook Islands and for two years, from 1987 - 1989 and was Co-ordinator of Religious Education and Communication in the Diocese.

From 1989 until 2012, although for one year in 1994 she was a member of the Outer Island Renewal of Faith Programme in the Cook Islands, the Cluny Sisters posted Sr Elizabeth to other parts of the Province. She worked for a time in Auckland as a team member of National Catholic Religious Education Office. From 1995 to 1998 Sr Elizabeth had experience of missionary life in the Philippines. In 2001 she became the Provincial leader of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, a position she held until 2011.

When we look closely at these appointments, we note that the Sisters of Cluny concluded the formal education that the Browne-Russell's family had given their daughter. With this education, Sister Elizabeth was able to adapt to many different responsibilities thrust entrusted to her. Those of us who worked with or met her in these responsibilities know Sister Elizabeth was fully committed and she expected results. The fact too that she remained leader of the Sisters of Cluny in New Zealand, Fiji, the Cook Islands and the Philippines for 10 years speaks too of the professionalism of this women.

To make this a little more personal I turn to some former Nukutere Students for their comments.

"Wow 50 yrs service for the Lord! She was my music teacher and played a big part in my Nukutere years. She taught me how to live my faith through music and dance. I remember one year our class went on our annual class retreat at Matavera parish. Sister Elizabeth came with us and looked after the girls while Fr Paul Farmer, the boys. It was one of the highlights of my Nukutere years. Oliver Twist was just one of the many memorable occasions that Sister showcased her many talents in art and music ..... Congratulations Sister for a Golden milestone. Kia paruru uatu rai to tatou Atua iakoe i te roanga i o puke ra.

Thank you for your service.No te Atua e te Ipukarea!" Mike Williams.

I enjoyed the privilege of being in Sister Elizabeth's Typing and Music classes as a 3rd Form student in 1985 at Nukutere College. Classes were held in the rear of the old church building on the top block of school.

Softly spoken, regal with a beautiful smile, I fondly remember Sister Elizabeth introducing me to my first typewriter in Typing class, the sturdy mechanical ones with the red and black carbon ribbons, that click clacks one letter at a time with each key press and creates a mighty thud when you push the lever to go to the next line. Oh the good old Olivettis! ..... Sister Elizabeth taught me all those 30 years ago how to touch type and maintain good posture - basic life lessons in occupational health & safety and essential to my working life in the information technology era. Forever grateful to you dear Sister Elizabeth and all the Religious over the century for your dedication to our enriched Catholic education in our secondary and primary schools.

Congratulations. God bless. Emily Pierre - Tupapa

### **Sr Lusiana Dimate Matai sjc.**

Sr Lusi entered religious life in 1987 and made her first profession on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, in 1989. That means Sr Lusi has already celebrated her 25 years of consecrated life earlier on in the year in Fiji her homeland. We are just catching up in the Cook Islands. Sr Lusi trained as a teacher at Corpus Christi College in Suva starting in 1991. There were brief periods of teaching in Fiji until Sr Lusi began studies at the University of the South Pacific which lasted until 2004 when she took up teaching at St. Joseph's Secondary School in Suva.

In 2006 she was posted to Nukutere College. Until today there has just been one year, 2010, that Sr Lusi returned to Fiji to help in the training of those wishing to be a Sister.

### **Sr Teresa Momoyalewa sjc.**

Sr. Teresa sjc is not celebrating an actual anniversary, but I am sure you are interested to know how long she has been a Sister - 57 years. If you were to ask Sister when do you retire as a Sister? She would say 'never'. This is very true. But like Fr Damian it is time for Sister to hand over her official responsibilities and become more focused on her life in the community and prayer life of the Church. Sister will provide the Diocese with the

prayerful support it needs. Pope Francis called consecrated persons to be "deeply rooted in personal communion with God." Sr Teresa and Fr Damian now lead the way in this life style in our diocese. This is their milestone.

Sister Teresa arrived in the diocese in 1994, and I see as well as being the Principal of St., Josephs she was also the sacristan. Until today, Sr Teresa has been all this time in the Cook Islands, except in 2007, when she returned to Fiji to help out in training new Sisters. From 2008 Sr Teresa was the bishop's secretary and continued her work in the church as sacristan. Today we thank Sister for her dedication to these two ministries that we associate her with and pray for continued good health in the years to come.

What these three women, with very different personalities have in common is that they are Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. They are very much focused on Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, their foundress and whose spirit they attempt to follow. The more we understand Anne Marie Javouhey the more we will understand our three Sisters.. This is what the Cluny Sisters say about Blessed Anne Marie. She was the woman who dared:

- To stand as counter witness to the spirit of the age.
- To search for God's Will for her in the challenge of her day.
- To risk everything in complete confidence in order to announce Jesus Christ.
- To believe in the dignity of the poorest and work to promote freedom from oppression.

This celebration provides us the opportunity to marvel at the achievements of these three women as consecrated religious women. Yet we are only too conscious that no one is following in their footsteps. Given this fact is the sign of the times let us accept it with an open mind. What is the Holy Spirit saying to us? Possibly what we need is a 2015 version of Anne Marie Javouhey. A Cook Islander to stand up with confidence in order to announce Jesus Christ in 2015 and beyond. A Cook Islander, who will attract others through his/her passion for the gospel. A

Cook Islander who is prepared to counter witness to the spirit of this age. Their vision of the church will at first be quite foreign to most of us. It does seem the present image of religious life is tired and we have fallen into sleep over it. So first, who can wake up the world, and secondly, how are they going to wake it up? I suspect it is not going to be a gentle shake!!!!

**Bishop Paul Donoghue sm.**

## **YEAR OF MERCY**

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgini Mary: The Opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.**

The Immaculate Conception is the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was chosen by God to be Mother of the Lord Jesus – of Him who was both divine and human. She was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception. Honored by God from the start of her life, Mary is honored by us today.

The jubilee year is a “holy year” marked by acts of faith, charity, and “brotherly communion,” the Vatican's website adds.

“I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time,” Pope Francis said after announcing the jubilee year.

“From this moment, we entrust this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she might turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey,” he said. The jubilee year will begin on a Marian feast day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

### **Carols Singing at 6.00 p.m.Dec.20<sup>th</sup>**

***All Taperes and ethnic groups are invited to participate. Please do come along.***

## **A P P R E C I A T I O N**

Our sincere thanks and a big meitaki maata to Avatiu Tapere for looking after the cleaning of the Cathedral and its surrounds during the month of November not forgetting Papa Mati for keeping the front lawn of the Cathedral beautiful.

- Thanks to our Catechists for helping out in our communion Services during the week while our Bishop was away.
- Thank you also for all the preparations for the Turama as well as the Procession of Christ the King.
- To our Music Ministry, meitaki for helping us to praise the Lord through our singing
- Thank you to our altar servers for faithfully serving Mass during the week as well as on Sundays. To one and All, thank you for your generous service. Many of you are doing great service quietly behind the scene without anyone noticing it; but the Lord does! God bless the cheerful giver!

**HOLIDAYS:** Many of our students are already on holidays. Soon the rest of the schools will finish for the end of the year break. We wish all students here and those from abroad an enjoyable time with parents and loved ones. May your time with the family be an enriching and enjoyable one. We also wish our hard working teachers a wonderful and relaxing holiday with the families. Kia orana. E Kia Manuia!

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One Sunday evening, in a village high in the Austrian Alps, a party of tourists on a visit to Oberammergau asked the Minister, the Rev. Walter Gordon, who was with them, to take a short service by a wayside shrine on a mountain path.

So with other guests in the hotel, they made their way up the hill. Two girls lit candles in the shrine, and 40 men and women – roman Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists and Presbyterians – joined together in the service. As it neared its end, a stranger appeared through the trees and stood with them.

It turned out he was an American, and the previous day he had lost his way on the hills. It was growing dark, and he did not know which direction to take. Then to his amazement, he heard voices singing Psalm 23 far beneath him. Slowly, he made his way towards the voices until he saw the flickering lights of the candles through the dusk and knew he was safe.

Was it coincidence that led the worshippers to the lonely mountain shrine that night? Perhaps. But those who were there will always believe it was something more.

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