



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

## AVARUA RAROTONGA

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2016

PHONE: (682)20817

### SUNDAY MASSES

9.00 AM	Maori
10.30 AM	English
5.30 PM	ADORATION /BENEDICTION

### WEEKDAY MASSES:

7.00A.M. : Monday – Friday  
8.00 A.M. Saturday  
Confessions before Mass during the Year of Mercy

### St Joseph's Cathedral Parish:

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

**Phone Contact:** (682)23-013 – Residence  
(682)20-817 – Office

**Assitant Priest: Rev. Fr. Freddy Kaina**

Phone Contact: (682)72423

### St Joseph's Cathedral Parish Council:

Chairperson: Carl Glassie

Assistant: Joe Caffrey/Ron Patia

Treasurer: Unakea Kauvai

Assistant: Julia K. Cowan

Secretary: Ruta Tomokino

**May is the Month dedicated to Mary, Mother of God.** During this month the Rosary will be recited daily in the Cathedral before Mass.

**Mondays – Fridays: 6.30 a.m.**

**Saturdays: 7.30 a.m.**

**Sundays: 8.30 a.m.**

The Rosary is more than just a recitation of the words of the Angel said to Mary. The Rosary offers us the chance to think about various aspects of the life of Mary and her Son, Jesus Christ. To pray the Rosary is to recognize the special role Mary played in the Redemption of the world.

If you are not able to join the parish for the recitation of the Rosary in the Cathedral, may be it's an opportunity to get your family to pray the Rosary together at home. 'The family that prays together stays together.'

### Sundays and Feastday Readings for May:

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter.**

#### **Readings:**

Acts 15: 1-2, 22 – 29

Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23

John 14: 23 – 29.

### Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Sts Philip & James:

#### **Readings:**

1. 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 8

2. John 14: 6 - 14

### Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> May: The Ascension of the Lord:

#### **Readings:**

1. Acts 1: 1 – 11

2. Ephesians 1: 17 – 23

3. Luke 24: 46 – 53

**Today is also Mother's Day.** Jesus loves His Mother so much that He gives her to each one of us to be our mother too. May we take time today to remember our mothers, those who are still with us and those who have gone to their eternal reward. And in the words of St Paul we pray: "I thank my God each time I think of you and when I pray for you, I pray with joy."

### **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

### Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May: Feast of St Matthias, Apostle.

#### **Readings:**

1. Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

2. John 15: 9 – 17.

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May: Pentecost Sunday. – Confirmation Sunday. ONLY ONE MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL AT 10.00 A.M. .No Benediction.**

#### **Readings:**

1. Acts 2: 1 – 11

2. Romans 8: 8 – 17

3. John 14: 15 – 16, 23 – 26

**MESSAGE FROM REV. FR.**  
**FREDDY KAINA**

Let us re-visit the words spoken by Mary of Magdala as mentioned in the Gospel Reading of Easter Sunday Mass, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him."

The Maori word that best expresses Mary's statement is "Mi'i". When the human heart aches over the loss of someone extremely dear to us, our hearts cry out in "mi'i". This word gives voice to the deepest levels of human longing or fretting and the great need to be re-united with the one that was lost.

The reason behind my re-connecting with Mary's statement is because since Easter Sunday, so much has taken place not only within our personal lives, but also within the life of the Church/parish. Let's bring into focus a few things that have taken place or is about to take place within the parish since Easter Sunday.

- a) Preparation for the end of the Cyclone Season – Ecumenical Prayer Service
- b) Confirmation classes/camp
- c) Evaluation of Holy Week 2016
- d) Weekly prison visits
- e) WYD 2016 planning/meetings
- f) Arrival of newly ordained deacon Rev. Vincent Peters
- g) Renewal of Catechists commitment
- h) Monthly Youth Mass and talks
- i) Baptisms and burials

With so much going on, there is a danger of switching on to work mode that we can forget all too quickly what took place during Holy Week and ultimately Easter.

While it is extremely important that we carry on with all the different jobs within parish life as best we can, it must never ever take priority over spending time with the Lord in personal prayer which includes daily attendance of Holy Mass or as often as we can entering into the Sacrament of Reconciliation, adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, spiritual reading or meditation and reflection on God's Word, etc.

Focusing too much on the work of the Church/parish cannot sustain a deep level of love for Jesus at the level of "Mi'i". Love at this level only comes about when we focus first on the Risen Lord.

Looking ahead to the last couple of weeks for the season of Easter, there is much work for all to do

..... teachers, catechists, laity, religious and priests.

Let us allow Mary of Magdala to remind us that her mi'i came out of an intimate relationship with a person named Jesus. To follow her example of putting Jesus first before all things is without a doubt the best way to follow Jesus.

**Jesus, I trust in You**  
**Jesus, I trust in You**  
**Jesus , I trust in You.**

( by Father F. Kaina)

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## **Pope Francis Speaks**

### **Mercy and Mission**

Day by day we enter into the life of this Holy Year of Mercy. With His grace, the Lord guides our steps as we cross the Holy Door and comes towards us so as to stay always

with us, despite our shortcomings and our contradictions.

Let us never tire of asking His forgiveness, as when we are weak His closeness makes us stronger and allows us to live our faith with greater joy.

When we receive good news or have a good experience it is natural that we wish to communicate it to others .... The joy we feel inspires us to do so. It should be the same when we encounter the Lord. Indeed, the concrete sign we have truly encountered Jesus is the joy we feel in communicating this to others too. This is not proselytism, but rather it is a gift: I give you what makes me joyful. Reading the Gospel we see that this was also the experience of the first disciples.

....Encountering Jesus is the same as encountering His love. This love transforms us and makes able to transmit to others the strength that it gives us.

We could say that on the day of our Baptism each one of us is given another name alongside the one we receive from our mother and father, and this name is 'Christopher,' which means 'Christ-bearer.'

The Christian is a bearer of Christ ... But the mercy we receive from the Father is not given to us as a private consolation, but rather makes us instruments to enable others to receive the same gift. There is a wonderful circularity between mercy and mission.

Living mercy makes us missionaries of mercy, and being missionaries enables us increasingly to grow in God's mercy. So let us take seriously the fact of being Christians, and let us commit ourselves to living as believers, because only in this way may the

Gospel touch the people's hearts, opening them to receive the grace of love.

Source: VIS 30 January 2016

## **God's constant forgiveness**

God continually offers us His forgiveness. He helps us to welcome Him and to be aware of our evil so as to free ourselves of it. God does not seek our condemnation, only our salvation. God does not wish to condemn anyone! ... The Lord of Mercy wishes to save everyone.... The problem is letting Him enter into our heart. All the words of the prophets are an impassioned and love-filled plead for our conversion.

God's heart is the heart of a Father who loves all His children and wants them to live in goodness and justice, and therefore to live in fullness and happiness. A Father's heart that goes beyond our meager concept of justice so as to open up to us the immense horizons of His mercy. A Father's heart that does not treat us or repay us according to our sins, as the Psalm says.

It is precisely a heart that we encounter when we go to the confessional. Perhaps it will tell us something to better understand our evil, but at the confessional we all go in search of a father who will help us change our life; a father who gives us the strength to go on; a father who forgives us in God's name.

Source: VIS 3 February 2016

(Extract from Marist Messenger April, 2016.)

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## **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION CAMP**

TWENTY ONE Confirmation candidates together with their teachers went into camp at St Joseph's School from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. The purpose of the camp was to create an opportunity where the candidates can explore deeper some significant aspects of their Catholic faith and to present them in ways that are engaging, accessible

and relevant. This was possible through the new Confirmation program called 'Decision Point' from Dynamic Catholic.com, written by Australian author and speaker, Matthew Kelly. Themes explored during the camp include the Jesus Question, the Prayer Process, The Bible, Relationships, The Eucharist and the Holy Spirit. The candidates participated well in their daily sessions which began with daily Mass in the Cathedral. Apart from the few ice-breakers, volleyball and the delicious meals prepared by the parents, the candidates also enjoyed the short evening walk to the Cinema to watch the movie 'The Jungle Book' on their last night of the camp.

The Confirmation Team and candidates would like to thank the Parish Pastoral Council for purchasing the Confirmation resources. They also wish to thank the parish community, parents, sponsors and friends for their support in various ways during their journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We thank the teachers who have been accompanying the candidates in their preparation journey and the parents for their support. Congratulations to one and all!

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May: The Most Holy Trinity.**

**Readings:**

1. Proverbs 8: 22 – 31
2. Romans 5: 1 – 5
3. John 16: 12 – 15

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**

**First Comm. for the Cathedral Parish..  
Only ONE Mass and is at 10.00 A.M.**

**Readings:**

1. Genesis 14: 18 – 20
2. 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26
3. Luke 9: 11 – 17

Congratulations to all our First Communicants and a big thank you to the teachers and parents who prepared them for their big day.

**Procession of the Blessed Sacrament**

On the last Sunday of May, we normally have the Procession of Our Lady. However, this year, we will have the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament which is the feast of Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi takes precedence before Our Lady, that is why we are having the procession of

the Blessed Sacrament instead, which begins at 5.00 p.m. from the front of the Computer classroom at Nukutere College.

**Taperes responsible for decorating the Altar of Repose:**

**Nukutere College: Tutakimoa/Takuvaine**

**St Joseph's School: Avatiu/Ruatonga**

**St Joseph's Community Hall: - Matavera Parish:**

**St Joseph's Cathedral:**

**Nikao/Panama/Tupapa/Marairenga:**

**Welcome Back:** Welcome back Bishop! It is good to have you back with us. Hopefully your time away has given you ample time to rest, and relax.

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

**Ecumenical Service in Thanksgiving for God's Protection during the Cyclone Season:**

Our thanks to Fr Freddy and the Youths of the Parish for representing our Catholic community at the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at the National Auditorium. Thank you also to the Papas and Mamas who were there to support. We were well represented and everyone was happy with the big number who were present there that night. It was one of the best attendance ever not only from us but from other denominations as well. "It is good to give thanks to the Lord!"

Thank you also Father for being with us each morning for the celebration of the Eucharist. We do appreciate of your being there each morning all the way from Arorangi.. Meitaki.

A big meitaki maata and sincere thanks to Avatiu Tapere for looking after the cleaning of the Cathedral and its surrounds during the month of April. Nikao/Panama will be during the month of May.

Thank you also to the Catechists, Eucharist Ministers, Parish youths, Musicians, Taperes, altar servers, Liturgists and all those who have helped in anyway, making sure that our place of worship, the liturgies and our celebrations were the best. "Many hands make light work!" Thank you one and all for all your help and support. It is all for the Lord and he will reward you as He alone knows best. E Kia Manuia!

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