

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Serving the people of South Taranaki in Hawera, Normanby and Manaia

5th Sunday Easter

2 May 2021



Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

In last Sunday's gospel reading Jesus was the good shepherd and we the sheep. Today's image expresses an even closer relationship: a vine and its branches. This is so close a relationship that you could say it is beyond relationship; it is identification. "I am the vine...you the branches." But a vine *is* all branches! It is not like a tree or a big shrub where you have a substantial trunk and a profusion of branches. The vine is just branches. He has identified himself with us. It is obvious that a branch cut off from the vine (or from any tree or shrub) will wither. In the case of the vine, not only is the branch destroyed but the vine itself is diminished. To destroy a branch is to destroy the vine in some measure; to cut off a brother or sister in Christ is to cut off Christ.

This is also the teaching of St Paul. Christ, he said, is the head and we are the body. "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:4); "Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12).

A favourite word in John's gospel and letters is 'abide' (or the rather colourless translation 'remain'): abiding in God, abiding in Christ, abiding in his word.... I counted thirty-seven. To abide is not to be a visitor, it is even more than being a friend, it is to be at home.

It seems that no image can go far enough in expressing our union with Christ and God. Meister Eckhart said, "If anyone put water in a barrel, the barrel would surround the water, but the water would not be *in* the barrel [i.e., it would not occupy the same space as the wood of the barrel], nor would the barrel be in the water: but the soul is wholly one with God....In spiritual things there is no separating of one from another."

I remember a magazine article some years ago, "After affluence, what? Individualism." It was ever only a dream, of course – one that the world is waking up from now. Nobody can really be an independent individual, least of all a wealthy person. Wealth does tend to separate people from one another, while poverty often brings them together. But then wealth traps people in a complex financial web with other people, a very caricature of closeness. The dream of individualism is just a bad dream. We depend on other people in a thousand ways. Our Christian faith celebrates this and reveals its ultimate depth. Even the Persons of the Trinity depend on one another. To live, through Christ, in the heart of that mystery is our destiny.
Irish Dominicans

Year of St Joseph - Prayer to St Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed Joseph, show yourself to us and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.

Amen

Parishioners are invited to join in the Saying of The Rosary this Monday 3rd May at 1.30 pm in The Chapel. The theme of World Peace and Devotion to Mary. This will be held on the First Monday of the Month, you are all invited.



“Great things have happened with small beginnings, we can do this.”

Planned Giving Tax Receipts are available in the foyer please pick them up.

Finance & Maintenance Committee Update.

Over the last year the Pillars on the exterior of the church have been repaired, the job is now completed at a cost of close to \$35 thousand dollars. The exterior of the church especially the school side of the building is in need of a clean, and we are hoping to get this done within the next month.

Last month we had the cracked tiles replaced on the high roof of the church. There is an ongoing issue with the water tightness of the whole building, and we are currently working with Ardern Peters Architects recommendations as to how we move forward with what will be a huge expense to the church. We will be providing parishioners with more information when we have a clearer idea of what we are dealing with.

Cheques: By the end of June, we will no longer be able to accept cheques because all banks will no longer accept them.

Vocation Sunday. If you would like to give to this collection online the account number you need is

02 0630 0288010 03. Please include your name, planned giving number and the initials VS as a reference. NB this account is only for Special collections, it is **Not** the account number for planned giving.

Anointing or Communion. If you or a loved one are unwell and would like a visit from a priest, please call Fr Joseph on 027 232 7532 or Fr Craig 021 2724401. NB Fr Joseph will be away this coming week.

St Josephs in New Plymouth are seeking enrolments for Confirmation. If you have a child who is at Sacred Heart or Francis Douglas who would like to be Confirmed here is the link Parents meeting St Joseph’s Hall New Plymouth 20th May at 5.30pm. Your child is welcome to do the course and be confirmed in their home Parish if they wish. They can register through the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth website.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has awarded the title **Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great to Tony Murphy** in recognition of his outstanding service to the church in the Diocese of Palmerston North. Our congratulations and blessings go to Tony on receiving this much deserved honour. Well done, and many thanks for your service of eighteen years as our Diocesan manager! Everyone is invited to the presentation of this Papal Award on Tuesday 11 May, 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North. Afternoon Tea in the Diocesan Rooms will follow the ceremony. No RSVP is required.

COVID-19 Vaccinations The bishops have issued a strong statement in support of all people getting a Covid-19 vaccine when they become eligible.

Pro Life Facts In 2016, abortion “exclusion zones”, also known as “Safe Access Zones” were enacted in the State of Victoria, meaning that pro-life people could not gather outside abortion facilities. Similar powers to establish “safe areas” around NZ abortion facilities would be provided by Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion (Safe Areas) Amendment Bill. For more info on pro-life issues, visit www.righttolife.org.nz

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES

Please pray for all who are sick and all who care for them. Please pray also for all who have died recently, including Peter Kersey, Elias Dung Dung, Lorraine Nolan, Patricia Malone, Maureen Jensen, Hanns Krummenacher, Rewa Darbyshire, Freda Hurley, and all whose anniversaries occur around this time including Tony Buhler, Geoff Purser, Jayne Sullivan, Bruno Stutz, Kieran McCarten, Molly Hall, Nicholas Brady, Carmel Woodward, Matekitawhiti Carr. Mass has been requested for John Bradford (Ann) and Sheila Bradford (Ann) Gladys Walshe(Ann) Vincent Walshe.

PARISH INFORMATION

St Joseph’s Church 38 Victoria St Hawera
Sacred Heart Church 43 Ngatai St Manaia
Mission Centre (Parish and School office)
Little Regent St behind the church
Postal Address Box 488 Hawera 4640
Email stjoshw@xtra.co.nz

Website <https://stjosephshawera.weebly.com>

(Office Hours Mon - Fri 9.00am - 12.00noon)

Parish Secretary Patrea Clement 06 278 5656

Parish Priests Craig Butler Mob 021 272 4401
(24hrs)

Fr Joseph Tha Khu 027 232 7532

SUNDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday 8 May 5.00pm St Josephs Hawera
Sunday 9 May 9.30am St Josephs Hawera

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Monday 9.00am Communion Service
Tuesday 9.00am Communion Service
Wednesday 10.30am Trinity Service
Thursday 9.00am Mass
Friday 9.00am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 11.30am, or any time by appointment.