

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF

SOCKBURN

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

CHRISTCHURCH

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME
(YEAR A)
MISSION SUNDAY



THE TWO KINGDOMS



The Pharisees and Herodians were effective at designing trick questions, the ones that to which ever answer Jesus gave would be wrong. Jesus finds himself in this situation in our Gospel again today. If he answered that it was unlawful to pay taxes to Caesar, then he would have been in a great deal of trouble with the Romans. Yet if he answered that taxes should be paid to Caesar it would contradict the idea that God was sovereign over all things.

But Jesus gives a brilliant answer by making a distinction between two different kingdoms. One is the kingdom of the world and one is the kingdom of God. He alludes to the fact that as believers, we must operate in these two kingdoms. But

Jesus asks of us that whilst we are part the world we are not meant to be 'of the world'. This means that as Catholics we don't live by 'worldly' values and what we aspire towards is something far greater than the world has to offer. But at the same time, we have to operate and be a functioning part of the world in which we live. We have to adhere to the civil duties, and to work alongside and interact with people of all different creeds and beliefs.

God's kingdom is here on earth, but it operates amidst a world that is fallen. Therefore, we have to be constantly on guard against the things of the 'worldly kingdom' that pull us away from God. We also have to be a light to all people, a sign to all that God's kingdom is here on earth.

Fr Graeme

URGENT HELP!!!

ABLAZE CONFERENCE (see page 2)

The Sockburn Parish has been given the afternoon of Saturday the 11th of November to supply the afternoon tea to the many Parishioners and priests attending the Ablaze conference. **Please** if you can help by baking a loaf, a slice or even sandwiches for this can you contact Lisa in the Parish office urgently. Cakes, and muffins are to be placed on disposable plates sandwiches can be left uncut and in their sandwich bag. To be delivered to the parish no later than **3.00pm Friday 10th November**, sandwiches can be left in the fridge in the BJC for pick up by 9.45am on the Saturday morning. We need definite names of those that can help prior to this. If baking is not your forte then maybe you can offer to help clean up after the event Saturday 11th November 1.45pm - 5.00pm.

RESPONSE to the PSALM

Give the Lord glory and honour.

PARISH NOTICES

CONFIRMATION MASS

Sunday 5th November at the 10am Mass 14 young parishioners will be confirmed. Please join those being confirmed and there family/friends for morning tea afterwards in the BJC. Please also remember to bring a plate to share if you are able to.

HOLY HOUR

Next Friday October 27th is Holy hour with Adoration and Benediction. 2.00pm - 3.00pm in the church.



PLANT STALL

It's Gardening Time!!

November 5th the Parish will hold their annual plant sale after the 10.00am Mass. Buy healthy and lovingly grown seedlings and plants. There will be a great selection of vegetables, herbs, grasses, succulents and house plants. This is a Fundraiser for the parish.

SAFEGUARDING

Guidelines to the Prevention of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church in New Zealand.

The Catholic Church believes that every person has a value and dignity which derives directly from their creation in the image and likeness of God. This implies a duty to value all people and therefore to protect them from harm. Children and people at risk were welcome and safe in the company of Jesus and should be welcome and safe in his church. The safeguarding of children and adults is an integral part of the life and ministry of the church and flows from the Gospel. Guidelines for the above are available on the Diocesan website <https://chchcatholic.nz/> and in the entrance of the foyer.

PARISH FAIR

This is scheduled for November 5th after the 10am Mass. If you are able to donate, chocolates/biscuits/items for our christmas hamper etc, that will be great.

Please drop them into the parish office from now on. The Chocolate wheel will be out spinning !!1st Prize ham on the bone, (5 Christmas Hams to be won.) We will also have our Christmas raffle on sale. 1st Prize Christmas ham, 2nd Prize a grocery hamper, there will be a few food stalls as well.



THANK YOU

Last Sunday the food bank collection for Catholic Social Services was the largest ever, an outstanding response. The demands for their services is at an all time high. To add to this record the Sockburn conference of St Vincent De Paul donated a carton of tinned goods which is a real bonus and a big help to CSS. Once again many thanks and keep up the good work.

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

The Diocese now has an employed member of staff to assist compiling and archiving Parish records. To see the latest Archiving newsletter visit the Catholic Diocese website www.chchcatholic.nz or check out the noticeboard in the church.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Please refer to the notice board for more Diocesan news.

CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS DAY

1st November 2017. Join us and Sr Eleanor Capper for a talk about "What makes a Saint?" Let's get inspired by these ordinary people who followed God with all their heart and encourage us all to follow the call of holiness. Enjoy fellowship and free book giveaways. Wednesday 1st November at 7pm St Joseph's Parish Centre. Questions contact Lauren 027 424 6045 laurenbutler76@gmail.com

FIREPOWER YOUTH RALLY

Come experience St Teresa's Youth Group and Christ the King Youth Group, as they share their story and testimonies about how God has put on their hearts that they are "Made for More" Family friendly event, held at Catholic Cathedral College Hall on the 3rd of Nov, from 7pm-9.30pm. A night filled with live worship, testimonies and fellowship! For more info contact Delbert Castillo, Parish Support Worker at: dcastillo@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0705.

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*Eternal Rest Grant
unto them O Lord, and
let perpetual light
shine upon them. May
they rest in Peace.*

We remember those whose funerals were held at OLV church and whose anniversaries occur at this time:

22/10 Anthony Fitzgerald,

23/10 Daniel McCormack, Norman Batty, Horace McPhee, Alan Samuels,
Mary (Molly) Winder,

24/10 Colleen Hollows, Sr Elizabeth Kerr, David Beecroft,

26/10 Raymond Thompson, Ted Jowers, Katie Carson,

27/10 Dean Wallace,

28/10 Sr Mary Paul (Margaret Minehan), Gordon Redmond, Allan Addie,
Dianne Gillum,

MISSIONARIES ARE WINDOWS TO THE HEART OF GOD.

It is Mission Sunday. For many it is just another day when monetary collection is done in our churches. However, it is more than that. Any collection is only to express one's solidarity with the work of the Pope which is primarily a support for any work to help promote evangelization in the needy diocese in the world. But more importantly, Mission Sunday is a day of Thanksgiving and a celebration of one's being a missionary. Anywhere I go, I used to tell the Sunday congregation before the renewal of our Profession of Faith or the Prayer of the Creed, one of my realisations in my faith journey. I hope that everyone who prays the Creed will always hear an echo in their hearts.

What echo? That as any of the gathered faithful who profess "I believe in God..." should hear the echo "Me, too! I also believe in you!" Yes, this is an important truth in my faith journey. And this is at the core of our readings this Sunday. God believes in us! Isaiah proclaimed in the First Reading one profound truth: "Thus, says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. (Is 45:1, 4). Yes, King Cyrus was a powerful Persian King, but he was the one who broke the 70 years exile of the People of God to Babylon. He was instrumental in bringing the exiles back to Israel, back to Jerusalem. Like Cyrus, God who is Father and Creator called you and me to be alive because we have a mission to fulfil. The Gospel narrates to us how the Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus. Is it lawful to pay tax to Caesar, the Roman King? His answer was simple. You pay taxes with coins. Whose image is embossed in the coin? Surely, the answer was Caesar's! So, He simply answered, give to Caesar what belongs to him, but give God his due. Where is God's face molded? And we remember the beginnings of the Scriptures that says: And God made the human person into his image and likeness! God's face is in our personhood.

The many gifts we have, though we do not appreciate it oftentimes, are gifts from God. Life, parents, families, children, friends, co-workers, home – to name a few. All these are gifts. Jesus made us realize this, for he came that we may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). We are not asked just to payback; rather we are challenged to pay forward. Mission Sunday is the day we celebrate that we, you and I, are called to be windows to the heart of God. Pope Francis is dead right when he coined the phrase "missionary-disciples" in his primary letter to all people of good will called the Joy of the Gospel. We are followers of Jesus, disciples all are we. But that is only half of the truth.

The other side of the truth is: we also are missionaries – we are called to pay forward the very goodness of who we are. May you be filled with Gospel Joy this Mission Sunday, and all other days. May only goodness and kindness follow you all the days of your life.

*Fr Bernard Spiritu SVD
National Director MISSIO-NZ*

PARISH OFFICE

There is a Mail Box outside the Parish Office. Outside Office hours, you may use it for payment of Attendance Dues, Mass intentions request etc.

Tuesday to Friday

WEEKLY LITURGY

other pastoral need may lead to them being cancelled or changed. Please read the Bulletin for any other changes to our 'normal' routine.



SUNDAY MASSES

6.00pm Saturday Vigil
10.00am Sunday
5.00pm Sunday

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 7.00am
Tuesday 9.00am
Wednesday 9.00am
Thursday 9.00am + 11.15am Mercy House
Friday 9.00am
Saturday 9.00am



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Tuesday to Saturday 8.15am + Benediction before Mass

Last Friday of the month, Holy Hour 2-3pm
Exposition and Benediction

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 11.00 - noon
(or by private arrangement)

ROSARY NOVENA

Tuesday 9.30am Thursday 7.00pm
Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday 9.30am

LEGION OF MARY

Saturday 9.30am

Parish Priest

Fr Michael Pui
nzmichaelpui@gmail.com

Assistant Priest

Fr Graeme Blackburn
gjb_nz@hotmail.com

Liturgy Co Ordinator

Carey Haines
careyhaines@me.com

Parish Secretary

Lisa Gilligan
348 6100
olv@xtra.co.nz

PREFERENCE FORMS MEETINGS & INTERVIEWS

If you are a *parishioner* and you want a Preference Form to enroll your child in a Catholic school in the next **18 months**, and your child is **baptised a Catholic**, then please attend one of the meetings scheduled **November 8th & December 13th at 5.30pm (sharp!) at the Bishop Joyce Centre.**

Please register your attendance beforehand. Forms to register your attendance are available outside the Parish office (and are to be returned to the office prior to that meeting).

If your child is **not baptised** then make an appointment for a private interview with Fr Michael. Contact him either via email or leaving a message on the phone with contact details.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Parents who want to get their children baptised in this parish are, in the first instance, to complete the Baptismal Registration Form (found outside the Parish office) and hand it in to the parish office once completed. After registration, you will be contacted regarding the baptism preparation meeting that is scheduled.

The meetings scheduled for 2017 (After 10.00am Mass on Sunday) in the Bishop Joyce Centre are: **November 12th & December 10th Dates for baptism will be discussed as part of the meeting.**

Any queries phone Kate 027 229 7465 (day) or 339 4313 (evening) or the Parish 348 6100
If you are not a Parishioner of OLV then you will need to speak to Fr Michael first.