

Anniversaries in May

Hannah Moran, Terry Coyle, Deidre Wedd, Denis Farrell
Fr Robert Ryan, George Kura, Imelda Ewen, John (Merv) Maggin
Kathleen Butler, Kathrin De Fresne, Patrick Mullens, Marie Chote
Petrus Pepping (Pe),

Erin McCole Cupp contemplates how to follow Mary's example of trust, even in the most unimaginable circumstances. I can't imagine how she did it. Mary saw her Son slandered, betrayed, abandoned by all. He called His closest friends, then saw Him delivered over by religious authorities to be tortured to death by the government. She did this without once cursing, lashing out, throwing threats, praying for God to cast these abusers into hell, or worse. Not one mark of vengeance was wrought by her lips, hands, or face. Not one sin was committed by Mary in the face of the greatest sins ever to be committed, all against her most beloved child, her most beloved God. So how did she do it? How did she keep her own peace — no, God's peace — alive in her mind, body, and soul, while all about her, to all living senses, evidence was that there was no such thing as an indefatigable peace, not when God could be captured, mutilated, shamed, and murdered in front of a bloodthirsty crowd? How did she keep her cool when all the best the world had ever seen was making a descent into literal hell? I can barely keep four-letter words from escaping my lips when I stub my pinky toe on the coffee table. So I ask myself how she did it, but I also must ask myself why I do the things I do? Why do I let my words and actions sink into impurity when I'm inconvenienced, abandoned, insulted, and legitimately hurt, either by others or just by plain old indifferent circumstances? Of course, if I'm rigorously honest with myself, I know the answer. I sin because I'm not

getting my way. The funny thing is, even if my way is objectively just — God wants me to be sinned against even less than I do — I still fall into sin when I find myself cursing,



Mass Times

Sunday Masses

St Patrick'sSaturday (vigil)5.30pm

St Joseph's.....9.30am

Weekday Masses

Monday.....St Patrick's...9.00am

Thursday.....St Patrick's...9.00am

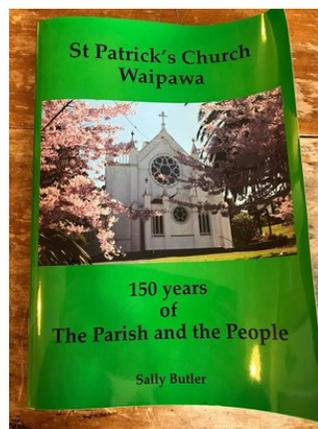
Friday.....St Joseph's...9.15am

Saturday.....St Joseph's...9.00am

lashing out, throwing threats, praying for God to cast my abusers into hell, or worse. This is because I don't trust God. I don't trust God to deliver justice, because I want justice served in my time to my specifications. Never mind that I can't know God's greater plan, God's idea of justice, an idea that embraces mercy and compassion while setting all things right. Mary, however, did trust God's plan above hers, because her idea of justice was keeping vengeance in God's hands, not hers. That's how she did it. And that's how the rest of us must, too. My way must become Mary's way, which was God's way all along.

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16th May 2021

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Rātini Kupu

16th Haratua , 2021

The Ascension of the Lord

Last Will and Testament

In the gospel we have just heard Our Lord's final instructions, his Last Will and Testament. Just before leaving them, he reminds them of what he expects of them. Earlier he had sent them out to spread the Kingdom of God. Those who go in his name, do so with his authority. The authority goes with the mission, so to speak. In Matthew's version he now adds this great promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Mark says that the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it". And Luke emphasises that they will be "clothed with power from on high", that is, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is very definite about what he has to say. Like any gathering of people, the feelings of his disciples were varied. But he sends them out to speak and act in his name. Their mission was both easy and hard: easy to understand but hard to carry out. It was to teach others all that he had taught them. Just as he asked them to follow his way, they were to ask that others should follow that way too. Has a doctor ever put you on a course of antibiotics. The most basic guidance about antibiotics is to complete the course. Even if the patient starts to feel well after a few days, to discontinue taking the medicine can let their condition grow worse. Similarly, the message of salvation must continue to be shared until the end of time. With all the changes in the church and in society, neither Jesus nor his message have changed. His Gospel remains a call to live our lives to the full. You write a new page of the gospel each day, through all that you do and whatever you say. Others read what you write, be it faithful or true. So what is the gospel according to you? He is with us always. This can be a real help against loneliness. Being alone is not the same as being lonely. One can feel lonely in a crowded street; or alternatively, like Cicero, never less alone than when alone ("minus solum, quam cum solus"). This applies especially to those who believe the promise, "I am with you always." Talking with him doesn't even need words. If we are open to His presence in our heart, and treasure it, we can experience fully that "Joy of the Gospel" so warmly described for us by our good Pope Francis. *Association-ofcatholicpriests.ie*

May WelCom is being distributed this week for Easter Sunday, 2 May, 2021.

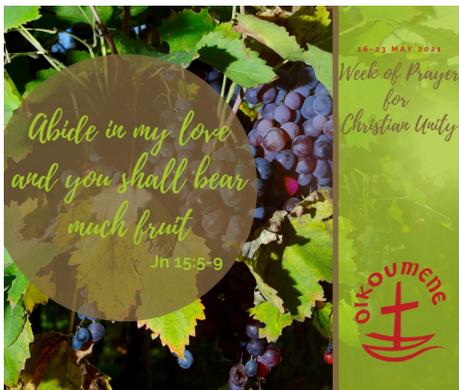
Contents include:

- Catholic Filipino community – 500-year anniversary Mass in Wellington

The NZ Catholic Medical Association is holding a Pastoral Care and Support conference and retreat for Catholic health practitioners at Our Lady's Home of Compassion in Island Bay, Wellington from 3pm Friday 28 May to 3pm Saturday 29 May. Hear interesting local speakers. Mass and Reconciliation will be available. The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference supports this event. Registration and details: www.newzealandcatholicmedical.co.nz

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

is an ecumenical Christian observance celebrated internationally every year. It is co-ordinated by the Catholic Church's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. Here in Aotearoa New Zealand the eight days between Ascension and Pentecost enables Christians with differing views to join together united in prayer. The theme for 2021 'Abide in my love' highlights the importance of an ongoing close relationship with Jesus. *Jesus also showed us how to abide in him. He left us his own example: each day he withdrew to pray in deserted places. We need prayer, as we need water, to live. Personal prayer, spending time with Je-*



The latest issue in your church Sunday May 16

sus, adoration, these are essential if we are to abide in him. In this way, we can place our worries, hopes and fears, joys and sorrows in the Lord's heart. Most of all, centred on Jesus in prayer, we can experience his love. And in this way receive new vitality, like the branches that draw sap from the trunk. This is the first unity, our personal integrity, the work of the grace we receive by abiding in Jesus. www.nlo.org.nz

THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT – THE HEALING POWER OF GOD

A one-day men's retreat open to all in the Diocese of Palmerston North.

Saturday 7 August, 8:30am – 4:30am @ Our Lady of Lourdes, 96 Shamrock St, Palmerston North. Cost: koha. Contact jo.mo.hamm@gmail.com for enquiries and to register.

St John's College- Last Sunday our senior students joined with those from Sacred Heart College to celebrate mass with the St Thomas Moore community. Our students were warmly welcomed and had the opportunity for a piece of cake and a cup of tea after mass.

This week we had a guest speaker at assembly – Zoe Dawson from I AM HOPE which aims to promote positive attitudinal/societal change around mental health, throughout New Zealand. 16 students and 3 teachers headed off on Friday for Porirua to participate in the O'Shea Shield competition which is being held at Bishop Viard College. We join 16 other catholic secondary schools from the Palmerston North and Wellington diocese. Here's hoping our boys do well.

Tony Murphy

Pope Francis has honoured the former diocese manager for the Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North with the title Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great for his service to the church. The award was presented to Tony Murphy at a ceremony at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North on Tuesday. Recently-retired Murphy – who was the diocese manager for 18 years where he worked locally and nationally – says the award recognises the entire church. “Across the diocese there are a lot of unsung heroes making our community, making our parish, making our country a better place by what they're doing. I felt I was being recognised for something I was being paid to do. This is a recognition not just of me, but for the work of the diocese for the past 20 years.” During his time as the diocese manager, Murphy supervised staffing, coordinated chaplaincies and was an advisor to parish councils, finance committees and school boards of trustees. With the national Catholic Church, he was a member of the New Zealand Bishops Federation finance committee, a committee member for the New Zealand Catholic Insurance Scheme and an executive chairman for a committee establishing a new Catholic Education Office in Palmerston North. At the presentation, Cardinal John Dew said Murphy had a reputation for being kind, friendly, supportive and someone who listened. “It wasn't just for the work Tony did, it was the way he did it, his personal character and reputation. The wonderful way Tony interacted with people in Palmerston North.” Catholic bishop emeritus of Palmerston North, Peter Cullinane, said the award recognised outstanding service to the church. “Tony's



service goes well beyond anything that's normally written in a job de-

scription.” “He combined professional skills and common sense with good judgment and compassion.” The Order of Saint Gregory the Great was established in 1831. It honours citizens of papal states and is given to people who are distinguished for personal character and reputation and for notable accomplishments.

Cathnews.co.nz

This Sunday night (16th May), John Cowan's guest will be retired judge & author Rosemary Riddell. Actor turned District Court judge Rosemary began her career working in broadcasting and public relations. She was admitted to the bar in 1992 and worked in family law for Gaze Burt in Auckland. She moved to Dunedin to join Gallaway Haggitt Sinclair in 1997 and was made a partner in the firm in 1999. In 2006 she was appointed a Family Court judge in Hamilton. She has also served as a Council member of the Otago District Law Society, and President of the Otago Women Lawyers Society. Rosemary began acting at the Downstage Theatre in Wellington in the 70s. In 2007, her short film Cake Tin won the Sandcastle Award at the 2007 Moondance Film Festival. In 2009, she directed a feature film The Insatiable Moon, based on a novel by her husband Mike Riddell. Rosemary is also Deputy Chair of the Fortune Theatre Board. Rosemary's new book To be Fair: Confessions of a District Court Judge will be released this month and reminiscences of life on the bench, complete with its humour, frustrations and poignant moments.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions (Evening): The Resurrection of Jesus Christ with Br Kieran Fenn. Monday 17, 24 and new: 31 May 7-8.30pm. Fee: \$25/session. ZOOM. All sessions are connected but also stand alone.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/the-resurrection-of-jesus-christ-with-br-kieran-fenn-5/>

For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz