

Anniversary's in August

Margaret Fletcher, Herbert de Stacpoole
Aimee Oldham, Kerri Hitchens
Monica Brick, John Seed, Franc
Barbara Bird, Mons Thomas Duffy, Martin Taylor

Pro-Life—In 1959, Professor Jerome Lejeune became famous for discovering the extra chromosome that causes Down syndrome or Trisomy 21. He was made the first professor of Fundamental Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine in Paris. To his great grief, the discovery of Trisomy 21 was used to diagnose and then abort these babies in the womb. For more pro-life information, go to www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

—Women in the Bible with Kieran Fenn fms. Mondays, 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$45 for 3 sessions. All sessions are connect but also stand alone.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/10/women-in-the-bible/>

Liturgical Spaces with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin.

Series on Muffin Talk radio programme freely available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/17/liturgical-space-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

This Sunday night (27th August), John Cowan's guest will be former politician Todd Muller. Todd was born in Te Aroha and was raised in Te Puna, north of Tauranga. He attended Tauranga Boys College before earning his Master's Degree from the University of Waikato. He joined the National Party in 1989 and from 1994 to 1997 he served as Executive Assistant to Jim Bolger during his second term as Prime Minister. He is a former University of Waikato Councillor and sat on the Boards of Plant & Food Research and the Sustainable Business Council. He was also the General Manager for Zespri, Chief Executive of Bay of Plenty company Apata, and most recently Group Director of Co-operative Affairs for Fonterra. During his time in Parliament, Todd has served as the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee,



and as the Deputy Chairperson of the Education and Science Select Committee.

Todd currently sits on the Maori Affairs Select Committee. In the 53rd Parliament, he has been allocated the roles of Opposition Spokesperson for Trade and Export Growth and Internal Affairs. He announced in March this year that he would not seek a seat in parliament at the 2023 general election. Todd and his wife Michelle have three children.

Real Life with John Cowan

7.30-8PM, SUNDAYS ON NEWSTALK ZB

Mass Times

Week Day Masses

Saturday—9am @ St Joseph's

Tuesday—9am @ St Joseph's

Thursday—9am @ St Patrick's

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass—5.30 @ St Patrick's

Sunday Mass—9.30am @ St Joseph's



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Rātini Kupu

27th Here-turi-kōkā 2023

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

21st August, 2023

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader. In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do. The use of the term church in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

www.loyolapress.com



Māori Education Collection - Sunday 27 August—This annual collection has growing support. Successful educational outcomes for young Māori is good for all New Zealanders. Your donation is an investment for a vibrant, working, diverse, faith-filled NZ. It is timely also to thank the many people who support all sorts of families struggling to pay school attendance dues. Often this includes grandparents or retired parishioners who do their bit to help out. If you wish to make a donation there are envelopes in the foyer of each church. Please include your name on the envelope should you require a receipt.

Social Justice Week: 3–9 September 2023 Imagine Peace for all: Peace begins with you! Pohewatia te Rangimārie mō te Katoa: Ka tīmata tonu te rangimārie i roto i ā koe! “Every human being desires communion and peace. Everyone needs peaceful co-existence. But this can grow only when we also build inner peace in our heart.” Pope Francis Each year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference lead us in Social Justice Week to consider an issue of social justice in Aotearoa. This year marks the beginning of a three-year focus on building peace and responding to conflict. We hope people will begin their journey by reflecting on their own personal peace and how to seek the peace of God in all areas of their lives. For resources and more information visit www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week

THE SEASON OF CREATION : The Season of Creation begins next Sunday, September 3rd, and continues



until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, October 4th. The theme “Let Justice Flow Like a River,” Amos 5, continues through the month. Pope Francis invites us to join in faith and prayer with the world community in gratitude for the gift of Mother Earth and in resolve to live justly in our relationship with her. Be actively involved in this journey as it unfolds.



IMAGINE PEACE FOR ALL

POHEWATIA TE RANGIMĀRIE MŌ TE KATOA



Billings Method Training Session

Nelson 29 and 30 September

Billings Life is holding a Natural Fertility Management training session in Nelson on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 September for health professionals, those wishing to become accredited teachers of the Billings Ovulation Method and users of the Billings Method. The Billings Method teaches accurate, evidence-based, scientific self-knowledge about human fertility. It does not depend on regular cycles, thermometers, kits, drugs or devices. It empowers couples to take control of their fertility to avoid or achieve pregnancy or to monitor reproductive health. To register or for further details: Phone 0800 693 378 | Email: info@billingslife.org.nz www.billingslife.org.nz

St John's College—This week saw the last winter season games being played with a few teams still training because of tournament week, next week. Football, U15 rugby, basketball and hockey all have teams involved. On Wednesday and Thursday our Y12 students were on retreat at St Peter Chanel, and was run by the Young Marists. It is important that we continue to connect with our Marist charism through our connections with the Young Marists and the extended Marist community.

We can read today's Gospel at so many different levels, each level offering us something different and wonderful. If we focus on the scene itself, we find ourselves entering into a very private, personal moment between Jesus and his closest followers. The question, “Who do you say that I am...” is not a question we ask casually. We can find ourselves wondering, why did Jesus need to ask it? Did he, maybe, need reassurance himself that his message was getting through to people? Did he, perhaps, doubt the conviction of his apostles and want to challenge them a bit? Was he thinking about his own death and wondering if Peter was the right one to succeed him? We might also read the Gospel from the point of view of Matthew who wrote it down many years after Jesus death and resurrection. Why did he choose to include this story in his Gospel? He was writing to small communities of believers who were isolated and who were suffering greatly because of their beliefs. For



them the question, “Who do you say that I am?” was not either academic or theoretical. Their lives, and the lives of their families, might well depend on how they answered it. Hearing Peter, the chosen leader of the Church, say, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” would have been hugely supportive for them. In the face of suffering, if Peter himself says that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Then surely they can believe it too? Finally, we could bypass all of this and go straight to the crux of the matter, “Who do YOU say that I am?” it is a personal question that Jesus asks each one of us who reads or hears this Gospel. And just as it wasn't an academic question for the first believers, nor is it for us. Our own personal answer to the question Jesus asks will determine how we view our world and our own lives. To say what Peter said demands a life of never dying hope and a constant, deep joy. My answer to Jesus' question must be reflected in my words and actions. So what is my answer? This is a deep and powerful Gospel. Join me in reflecting on it. b.maher@oblates.ie

First Reconciliation/Communion

We are taking registrations for our Sacramental programmes. There will be forms in the foyers or please email the office for a form. If your child attends St Joseph's school you can register at the school office. Children need to be 8 years or older. Email the office on cat.chb@xtra.co.nz

