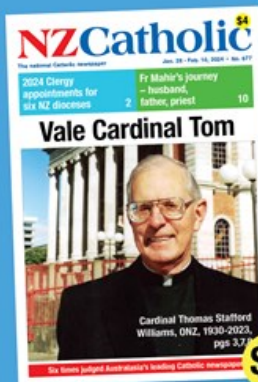


Anniversary's in January

Terrance Loughan, Trevor Hulena
Brett Gray, Clarice Barclay
Constance Fraiser, Timothy Carpenter
William Martin, Fay Orgar



The latest
issue
in your
church
Sunday
Jan. 28

\$4

My name is Sally White, and I am the coordinator of **Growing Through Grief** - Central Hawkes Bay. Growing Through Grief is a social service of Anglican Care Waiapu. Growing Through Grief provides Seasons for Growth® a suite of evidence-based, small group educational programmes for children, young people, parents, and adults who are experiencing change, loss, and grief in their lives. The Seasons for Growth® programmes aim to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of those who have experienced significant change or loss in their lives. The programmes provide a safe learning environment where participants can give voice to their experiences, understand their feelings, learn skills that help them adapt, develop connections, and recognise 'I'm not the only one.' Participants attending may:

- Have experienced relationship breakdown, separation, or divorce.
- Have had a death of someone close to them due to illness, age, suicide, violence, or accident.
- Have a family member absent because of time spent in mental health units, prison, or rehab.
- Have someone close to them sick.
- Be living in alternative care away from their own children, parents, or home.
- Be experiencing other loss or change in their family life.
- Be a parent/caregiver supporting

children experiencing separation or a death of someone close. Be a professional in the community looking to further their understanding of change, loss, and grief.

A minimum of 3 months after a situation has occurred is recommended before enrolling. Children, young people, and adult programmes operate in small groups of similar aged participants in weekly sessions throughout a school term. Childrens and young people's programmes can be run in schools by arrangement during school hours, or in the community after school.

Adult programmes occur in the community as needed. Workshops for parents and professionals also occur in the community as needed. Referrals or enrolments are made via an enrolment form. You can refer/enrol online through our website or by paper enrolment form. Once enrolled, contact will be made to discuss the next available programme. For more information go to our website www.acw.org.nz or contact me. Ngā mihi, Sally White – Coordinator, Growing Through Grief, Central Hawkes Bay
Mobile: 021 751 814

Email: gtgcentralhb@acw.org.nz

No week day Masses during the month of January.
Sunday Masses will remain the same



The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development

Parish Priest—Fr Paul Kerridge
Phone—Office 8586416 Presbytery 8589383
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Facebook—The Holy Trinity CHB

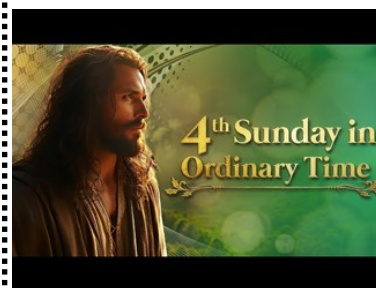


The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu

28th Kohitātea, 2024
4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

By What Authority?

In the not-too-distant past, Catholics felt confident that God's will for our faith and conduct is infallibly communicated by Pope and bishops, with the teaching authority given them by Christ himself. The doctrine of papal infallibility proclaimed in 1869, stressed the principle of authority so strongly that many felt unfree to make up their own minds on issues of faith or morals. Whenever controversy arose, we could expect a statement from the Magisterium to put the issue beyond doubt. Recently, many ordinary Catholics show a much lower respect for Church authority. Some welcome this greater freedom for individual conscience, while others long for a return to the clean-cut edge of dogma, defined and unquestionable. Perhaps we can get some light from today's Gospel, where Jesus "teaches with authority, and not as their scribes." Our knowledge of God comes to us primarily from Jesus, the Word of God, who makes the Father known to us. If we pay attention to his gospel read at Mass, or give time to the private reading of holy scripture, the main lines of Our Lord's teaching will be clear enough. Apart from reading or hearing the word of the Gospel, we have the prompting and guidance of Christ's Spirit, if we take time to pray, reflect and let our conscience come awake in God's presence. And finally, to help us apply the message of Jesus to definite areas in our lives, we have the teaching ministry of the Church. The only valid purpose of authority among Christians is to keep the Lord's word alive in the community, to keep us reminded of what Jesus said, and still says, to us his followers. God knows, we need such a reminder often enough, due to the slump-factor in all of us, tending to lower our ideals, and cool our devotion. We're often like a flock of straying sheep, needing the care of alert shepherds to hold us together, and keep us moving on the upward path. Yet, after listening with respect to what our leaders say — whether it be the Pope and bishops, or more locally the parish clergy — each adult Christian must look into his or her conscience, to blend the official teaching into our personal faith in God. Under several papacies in the recent past, many worried about an excessive dogmatism, seeking to stretch of the boundaries of defined doctrine. Surely it is right to expect our leaders to ground their teaching in the well-springs of the Gospel. Yet somehow, beyond and beneath



all authority in the Church, and permeating it with vitality, is the prophetic authority of Christ himself, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Through him, in faith and loyalty, we can know with certainty what God the Father expects of us, and what we must do in order to gain eternal life. Just one thing is needed: to be willing to undertake whatever he shows us, no matter how difficult. If Christ is God's fullest Word to us, we can have no reserves about doing what he says. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

Email Addresses—I have had trouble with the storage on the parish computer and as a consequence I have lost some email addresses. Please email the office at cat.chb@xtra.co.nz so I can update our address book. Many thanks.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

—Bible Stories - What do they mean? Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.

Sundays, 04 Feb, 03 Mar, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>

The Mystery of Miracles

Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm \$25/session or \$80/series, incl. study material.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

I decided to make chicken salad for dinner. It was an easy meal and a crowd-pleaser. Except that day it wasn't. I'd made half the meal before realizing that I didn't have enough mayo. "Ah, I'll just make some," I thought. I've made mayonnaise before, and it turned out fine. These days I usually just buy it, but it shouldn't take long to make a batch. Fast forward twenty minutes—my toddler opening every cabinet and drawer in the kitchen, my next two children, hungry and whining to eat, and my oldest two, asking me loads of questions about what I was making, and so on. The mayonnaise, however, wasn't turning out. Why won't it thicken? I researched and tried again, and nothing was making my concoction into thick spread ver-

sus mayonnaise soup. I thought I had done everything right—room-temperature ingredients, measured very carefully. Finally, I stopped trying, sat down, and the tears came. My second daughter gave me a hug, told me it was okay if it didn't work out, we could eat something different, and asked if I'd prayed and asked Jesus to help me. I hadn't. Instead of asking for help or believing in the process of making mayonnaise—turning a sloshy mess into glorious thick goop—I kind of just inwardly panicked. I did pray and eventually it did turn out. The answer, however, wasn't scrapping everything again, or giving up completely, but sticking with the process—being faithful to each slow drop of oil—getting myself (and my kitchen) messy while trusting that eventually the chemistry would work. Watery will turn pudding-like. I don't need to push harder. I need to trust. The Bible gives us examples of some, like Noah, Mary, and Joseph, who trusted fully in the Lord when asked to do seemingly crazy things. But what about the rest of us who fear the worst when the mayonnaise doesn't come together fast enough? Jesus seems to understand when we invariably doubt. When Jesus appears to the disciples after His Resurrection, Thomas is skeptical and Jesus encourages him to physically touch His wounds: "Do not be unbelieving, but believe" (John 20:27). While some saints show us what is possible when we cast every doubt aside (Hebrews 12:1), some also give us examples of perseverance through doubts. It seems that when God asks us to do something that we cannot imagine how to do on our own, we need to trust in Him through the process, even when it all seems to fall apart (or not come together to begin with). God will see us

through, and in the end, He will be far more glorified by our perseverance through struggle (or doubt) than if it had all come together quickly and easily. Copyright 2024 Lindsey Mitzel cathmom.com



When we think of 'authority' what images come to mind? I am fairly confident that adherence to laws, and just punishment for those who violate these laws figure somewhere in your images. Maybe the power given to authority figures, and respect for the office they hold, are also present. Maintaining order, keeping control, and granting permissions will be somewhere in the picture. In Sunday's Gospel those watching and listening to Jesus said a strange thing about him. They said he taught "...as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law." Later we hear that they were "amazed" by what he said, seeing in it "a new teaching." So what was it they saw or noticed in Jesus? What is this 'authority' they sense in him – an authority different to that of other people? There is, I think, something very profound happening here. What these people notice about Jesus – what they call 'authority' – is well worth reflecting upon. Join me, then, in reflecting on its significance to us. b.maher@oblates.ie

Paul's message in the second reading from 1 Corinthians presents a compelling call to undistracted devotion to the Lord. He contrasts the concerns of married and unmarried individuals, highlighting how the latter can focus more fully on God. This is not a denouncement of marriage but rather an invitation to consider how our states of life can best be oriented towards God. For the married, it is a challenge to find balance – to love and serve their families while keeping God at the center. For the unmarried, it's an opportunity to use their freedom for greater devotion and service. Paul's advice is timeless: our primary focus, regardless of our state in life, should be on pleasing the Lord. This call to undistracted devotion is a reminder to assess our priorities and attachments. Are they leading us closer to God, or are they pulling us away? In a world filled with distractions, this message is more relevant than ever. We are called to a devotion that is undivided, a heart that seeks God first in all things. Reflective questions - How do I discern

the true prophetic voices in my life, and how do they align with the teachings of Christ and the Church?

In what ways can I embrace and respond to the prophetic voice to bring about transformation in my personal and community life?

Reflecting on Jesus' teaching style, how can I make my own faith sharing more relatable and grounded in real-life experiences?

How do differences between Jesus' and the scribes' approaches to teaching challenge my understanding of authority and humility in spiritual leadership?

In what ways can I incorporate Jesus' method of simple and clear communication of the truth into my daily interactions?

How does my current state of life (married, unmarried, religious, etc.) influence my devotion to God, and what steps can I take to focus more on pleasing Him? What are the distractions or concerns in my life that may be hindering my undistracted devotion to God, and how can I address them?

In what practical ways can I balance my responsibilities to others while keeping God at the center of my life?

How can reflecting on Jesus' authority and teachings in the Gospel transform the way I see myself, my community, and my role in the Kingdom of God?

What are the "real-life" examples and experiences that I can share with others to bring the message of the Gospel alive in today's world?

<https://young-catholics.com/>

