

Anniversary's in February

Alan Banks Cameron, Daniel Taylor
Margaret Parsons, Fred James Allen
Mary Butler (Molly), Peter Robinson (Skip)
Vera Lawrence, Jack Moran
Bernard Skidmore, Malcolm Wenzlick

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.

Adoration—It is a privilege to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament regularly in our Parish. As we uplift our parish family in prayer, it's a blessing on all! The first Friday of the month, there will be Adoration from 10am until 3pm, commencing after Friday Mass at 9.15am.

Pro-Life -The Auckland Voice for Life "Real-life Law & Ethics for Medical and Legal Professionals" Training Day will be the ideal opportunity to meet other pro-life people, network, learn up to-date and relevant information, and become better equipped. This free event will be held at the Reformed Church of the North Shore, Trias Road, Sunnynook, on 2 March. Visit voiceforlife.org.nz/ak24 to find out more.

This Sunday night (25 February), John Cowan's guest on Real Life will be author Dr Gary Chapman. Gary Chapman, born in a small town in North Carolina, USA, has become widely known for his work in the realm of relationships, particularly in marriage and family counselling. He has written more than forty books with *The 5 Love Languages*, one of his most popular titles, topping various bestseller charts for years. He also hosts radio programmes *A Love Language Minute* and *Building Relationships with Dr. Gary Chapman*. Chapman's journey into Christian ministry began at the age of seventeen when he committed himself to serving Christ. He attended counselling courses, realising only later how significant they would become; the past thirty have seen a focus for Gary on marriage and family counselling. Gary holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in anthropology

and received his PhD from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Gary and his wife, Carolyn, have been married for over 60 years and reside in Salem, North Carolina, where she edits all his books. They have two grown-up children.

Are you a "Jack/Jill of all Trades" and able to turn your hand to any task? If you are enthusiastic, passionate, like being outdoors and have a love of all thing's maintenance and gardening, then we are looking for you! The job involves a variety of tasks and you will find no two days to be the same. You will need to enjoy interacting with people, primarily with staff, students, parents and contractors. If the above sounds like you, we would love for you to apply. Please send your CV and Letter of Application detailing your skill set and experience to: Teresa Shanks Principal 99 Guppy Road Taradale Napier Or via Email: principal@reignier.school.nz



NZCatholic
The Catholic Magazine
February 2024
New college blessed
\$4

Mass Times

Sunday—9.30am @ St Joseph's

Saturday—Vigil -5.30pm @ St Patrick's

Week Day

Saturday—9.00am @ St Joseph's

Tuesday—9.00am @ St Joseph's

Thursday—9.00am @ St Patrick's

Parish Priest—Fr Paul Kerridge

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Facebook—The Holy Trinity CHB



The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu

25th Hui-tanguru, 2024
2nd Sunday of Lent



Gospel Reflection

Encountering God And Times Of Transformation - Jesus led Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. Mountains and cloud often signify the presence of God with his people. For example, God was present to Elijah on a mountain (1 Kings 19:8). God revealed himself to Moses and gave the Ten Commandments on top of a mountain (Exodus 19:20). The Israelites were guided by pillars of cloud and fire in the wilderness (Exodus 13:17-22). God continues to turn up in the lives of His people. From a cloud God spoke in a voice saying that Jesus was God's Son "The Beloved" and urging the disciples to listen to Jesus. God continues to speak to His people. The question is whether we are listening for God's voice. Peter did not know what to say because the disciples were terrified. As we follow Jesus, we should not be surprised that as we encounter God there are times of confusion. At times God seems close to us and His purposes seem to be clear. But at other times He seems distant, and His purposes are not clear to us. At these times we are called to have faith in God. In a similar way while they were on the mountain, the disciples encountered Jesus in a new way – He was linked to the Divine. But their understanding was still limited and confused. Transformation always involves passing through darkness and the storms of life. Each day we have the invitation to rely on God for what we need through prayer and reading the Gospel message.

Group Discussion • In what ways have you encountered God? • What might help us hear God's voice? • How open am I to being transformed?

Vocational And Rural Training Centres, Solomon Islands -We work in partnership with the Solomon Islands Association of Vocational and Rural Training Centres (SIAVRTC), which oversees more than 70 rural training centres spread out across the Solomon Islands. These training centres offer vital vocational training, including agricultural, carpentry, mechanical, financial literacy, sewing, leadership, and life skills. Together with SIAVRTC, we are striving to uplift and empower communities in remote areas, equipping local people – especially the youth – with essential skills for a brighter future. SIAVRTC serves as a wonderful representation of an organisation that exemplifies the Catholic social teaching principle of participation by enabling both instructors and students to fully participate in society.

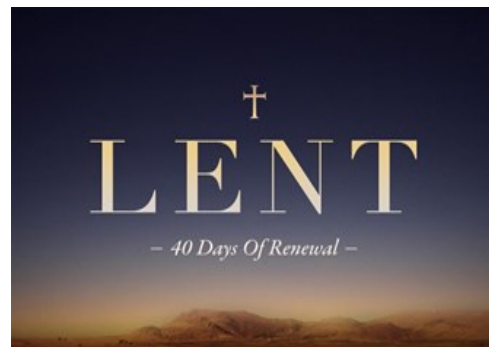


What must be cast aside?

"If your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better to enter into life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into the hell of fire!" Matthew 18:9). This condemnation of anything which may prove a moral stumbling-block for us was deliberately extreme to make it stick in people's minds, and it does. But "hell fire" is not precisely what Matthew wrote, but rather the "fiery Gehenna." The Hebrew word Gehenna meant the "Valley of Hinnom," a gorge just south of the Jerusalem Temple. It was a place under a curse, for it was there that the pagan Canaanites used to sacrifice children to their god Moloch, by throwing them into a fire. Some breakaway Jews followed that savage custom until the idol of Moloch was finally destroyed in the 7th century B.C. The horror of the place survived, and it became the refuse dump of Jerusalem, a place of continual smoke from burning rubbish. In the public mind it became synonymous with hell, a visible image of what that place must be. But there was no place for child-sacrifice in true worship of God, and devout Jews would claim there never was. They saw the confirmation of this in the actions of Abraham, their father in faith, how God stayed his hand as he was about to sacrifice his son Isaac. The story of Abraham and Isaac is full of high drama. The demand that Isaac be sacrificed seemed to utterly contradict God's promise that the boy would pass on Abraham's line into the distant future. It was a radical trial of faith, and no greater test of obedience could be set. Abraham's heart was pierced by the boy's innocent question, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Finding it impossible to tell his son that he was the intended victim, Abraham stammered, "God will provide." St. John may well have this episode in mind when he wrote, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son" (3:16). This story raises several acute questions. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son? Why did Abraham intend to obey? Indeed why did God allow his own divine Son to be sacrificed? The connection between Isaac and Jesus is obvious. Isaac prefigured Our Lord in that he was

to be sacrificed on a hill, and he carried on his shoulder the wood for the intended sacrifice. But there the likeness ends. Isaac was the least notable of the patriarchs, a bridge of transition between Abraham and Jacob. In contrast, Jesus at the Transfiguration was shown to his three Apostles, as a figure of miraculous glory, truly God's Son and messenger to the world. Despite their enthusiasm, the of the Apostles' faith would be tested later on, as Abraham's was. The shining revelation of the divine person of Christ was in sharp contrast to watching him in Gethsemane sweating blood before his Passion. The God who spared the son of Abraham and showered him with blessings, did not spare his own Son, but left him in the hands of his enemies for our redemption.

Unlike Isaac, Jesus was aware of what lay ahead. "The Son of Man must suffer," he had said. Shortly before the Transfiguration, when he first told the disciples what he was to suffer, Peter prayed that God would not allow such a thing to happen. The Lord's response was instant and severe, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as humans do" (Mk 8:33). In dealing with God we must have faith and trust. On the cellar wall of a bombed-out house in Cologne an unknown fugitive, obviously Jewish, left a testimony of trust that only came to light when the rubble was being cleared away after World War II. It read: "I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I do not feel it. I believe in God even when he is silent." That is the faith of Abraham, and is the kind of faith we should seek as well. associationofcatholicpriest.ie



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, 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/>

The Stations of the Cross - Reflections on Wood Carvings.

Available in English and Samoan. \$7 incl. postage

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/08/11/reflection-on-wood-carvings/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Wanted –a handy person who could help with tree branches, shrub pruning, and ongoing assistance with tasks to help keep a garden beautiful. If this sounds like you please email/phone the parish office and I will pass on your details to the parishioner requiring help. 8586416 or cat.chb@xtra.co.nz

St John's College- This week saw the start of our weekly house masses which are held in our school chapel at lunch times. It is much appreciated that the priests from the Hastings and Napier parishes make themselves available to say mass for our students and teachers. Members of the our wider Catholic community are welcome to attend these masses if they wish. On Sunday, we had a combined mass with Sacred Heart College held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Paki Paki. Thanks to the Paki Paki community for making us feel so welcome. On Thursday, a commissioning mass was held at Sacred Heart Church for all teachers in Catholic schools in Hawkes Bay. Thanks to Aaron, Elsie and the team at St Joseph's School for organising this mass and providing the hospitality afterwards. Conor Bolton (DRS)

Reflection: In today's readings we begin with the account of Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on the mountain in Moriah. I too, have a son named Isaac. I can't begin to imagine both the great fear, but more importantly, the great trust Abraham must have had in the Lord. Abraham came all that way and was ready to sacrifice his only son before the angel of the Lord stopped him, and blessed him for his faithfulness.

It makes me wonder, what am I withholding from the Lord? What am I not ready to trust him with? The angel says, because you did not withhold from me "your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly." In the Psalm, the theme continues when we hear that even though "I am greatly afflicted... I offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving." Paul then, in his letter to the Romans, reminds us "if God is for us, who can be against us." What am I being called to trust the Lord with today? My vocation, my brokenness, my finances?

The apostles too struggled with trusting in the Lord's plan. They wanted to stay on Mount Tabor and dwell in the glory of God. While this desire is good and even understandable, they needed to trust that the path to eternal glory was to come down that mountain and up another hill at Calvary. Sacrifice, trust, and blessing are intricately connected and through it all God's generosity cannot be outdone! Prayer: Dear Jesus, show me how to be generous just as you are generous. Help me to let go of my attachments so that I can be free to receive your blessings. Thank you in advance for your many blessings; those I see and those I don't see. www.thecatholictelegraph.com

