



St Mary's Parish, Mt. Albert, Auckland

Email – office@mtalbertcatholic.org.nz

Phone : (09) 8466775

Website : www.mtalbertcatholic.org.nz

15 August 2020

Kia Ora Parish Family and Happy Feast Day,

It is with sadness that we are writing to you in this format again. We were all so hopeful that we would be able to continue life at level 1. We are sad not to be able to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption together, such a significant day for us in Aotearoa and to give thanks for the very special gift of our Marist Sisters.

We must of course remember how blessed we have been here in Aotearoa to have had this time worshipping together and think of those that are suffering in all parts of our world as a result of covid-19 virus. We ask you to pray for all.

As you will remember, under level 3 we are not able to gather for Mass, our church however is open for private prayer. We do ask you to remember 2m social distancing, to wear a face covering and to use the hand-sanitiser provided. Please remember not to touch the statues.

We are grateful that the Diocese has continued to provide Sunday Mass either on their website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz or at 2pm on Channel 25 or Sky channel 201. You will also find Today's Mass for the Feast of the Assumption on the Auckland diocese website or the link on our website or facebook page.

Our Parish AGM was due to take place on 23 August. This has been postponed and a new date will be advertised ASAP.

The Parish Office will be closed during this time, we will however keep up with the community needs as best we can. Johanna is working from home and Megan coming in regularly, so if you have anything we can help with please leave a message on our answer machine 09 8466775 or email us at office@mtalbertcatholic.org.nz

Our Parish family was outstanding through the last lockdown, we reached out to each other and the wider community in so many ways. It is our hope we will manage even greater things this time. Please check in on each other, family, friends, neighbours.... Let us know if our Caring Committee can do anything to assist.

The Caring Committee will continue to operate the foodbank and has given food to feed over 100 people in the last few days alone. They are expecting this level of need to continue. So please remember our foodbank when you are shopping and drop any items to the front porch of the presbytery. Help us to feed those in need. We are also in need of people to deliver food parcels and do some shopping for our vulnerable, so please let us know if you can help.

We would also ask those of you that feel they can continue with their financial support of our priests and the parish to make donations online at St Marys Parish, Mt Albert, Account number: 02-0100-0120974-14 or by dropping your envelopes in the parish letterbox.

Stay well, stay safe and be kind,
Many Blessings from the team at the Parish Office.

Your Prayers are requested this week for;

- Our neighbours, Mt Albert Grammar school community and Mt Albert Primary School community.
- Sick members of our Parish and all those that are suffering as a result of Covid-19.
- We pray for our departed brothers and sisters those have died recently - Lataifeletoa Fa'apoi and Carolyn Wilson may they rest in peace.

This week's readings;

First READING: Isaiah 56 1:6-7

Second READING: Romans 11:13-15,29-32

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The three readings of the Liturgy today highlight that God's Love is for everyone. The foreigners in Israel, the pagans in Paul's letter to the Romans and Canaanite woman in the Gospel were all seen as outsiders by the Jewish people but God accepted them all as they were. This shows that although God set the Hebrew people apart as His chosen race, He included all nations in His plan for salvation and blessed all the families of the earth in Abraham (Ge 12:1-3). In other words, God's care extends beyond the bounds of race and nation to the hearts of all who live in God's house. Therefore, God's House should be treated as a House of Prayer for all people. We should pray and work sincerely so that the walls which our pride, intolerance, fear and prejudice have raised, may crumble.



Remember an Act of Spiritual Communion: filled with Grace and Mercy

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.