



St Mary's Parish, Mt. Albert, Auckland

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Kia ora All,

Our first week at level 3 has passed and we are praying in a week's time we will be preparing to return to level 2. Please remember under level 2 last time our church was able to open for Mass with a limit on numbers attending and with additional safety measures. We are expecting that the same will be needed again and we would ask you to please keep an eye out for an email from us once the Government has announced timeframes for level 2.

In the meantime, we are keeping busy in the office with an unprecedented number of requests for food parcels being received. Hence our cupboards are bare. We are calling out to you all to please remember the foodbank when shopping and drop what you can to the front porch at the presbytery. We have no cans left, so any tinned food please, long-life milk, rice, pasta, noodles or anything you can spare. Thank you all for your support. We thank those that have been dropping us food, delivering food parcels, helping with shopping, making online donations, making phone calls or keeping in touch in other ways. For the wonderful lad that delivered our newsletters to those that don't do email. And for all your prayers. We thank God for all the ways we have live our faith this week.

Please remember to be in touch if you or someone you know is in need of any help. Just leave us a message, either on the answerphone or email.

We acknowledge all our young who have stayed home, stayed safe and been kind. We are thinking of all those parents that are doing an exceptional job of keeping their families studying, working, and praying together.

Please remember to check the diocese website for gospel reflections, www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz and Sunday Mass. Or Shine TV: Channel 25 or Sky channel 201, 2pm each Sunday.

Take a look at Catholic Mom – catholicmom.com, this site has some awesome children's liturgy activities to do as a family. Perhaps this week you could pray the Apostles Creed as a family, with the younger ones echoing the lines.

Apostles Creed (ICEL translation)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.
And remember to check our website <https://mtalbertcatholic.org.nz/coronavirus-update/> for ideas on praying the word from home.

Stay well, stay safe, be kind.

Many Blessings from the team at the Parish Office.

Your Prayers are requested this week for;

All those on our prayer chain, All those suffering as a result of Covid-19 and all those celebrating a birthday or anniversary.

We pray for our departed brothers and sisters those who have died recently or whose anniversary occurs at this time - Peter Williams, Regina Koh (funeral details to follow) and Tom Gerard, please keep their families in your prayers.

We congratulate St Peters College – The college Chapel was the Auckland winning design for at the NZ Institute of Architects awards. Well done to Gary Lawson and Stevens Lawson

This weeks readings;

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

Pastoral Letter

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Though physically we are away from one another for a while, spiritually we are united together in Christ as one family. Hope you all are safe and well in your families. I am remembering and praying for each one of you in my daily prayers especially in my daily Eucharistic sacrifice. We all are loving children of God and HE loves us without condition. He takes care of us always especially when we are challenged with tough times as now all over the world millions of people are affected and are suffering due to Covid-19 pandemic and worried about their future. Be sure, every moment of our lives God is aware of all that is happening in the world. He knows the best what HE is going to do for us especially when we are confronted with lots of uncertain events. Therefore let us not be worried. The scripture tells us “Seek first the Kingdom of God and the rest God will do”

(Mt. 6:33). So let us keep hoping against hope like our Father Abraham. Let us thank and praise the Lord for His mercy and righteousness. Let us keep praying that God will save us from all dangers and evils. Let us have courage and faith in HIM. God bless you all.

With much prayers and regards,

Fr. Philip Lakra, OFM Cap.
Parish Priest