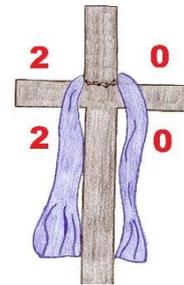


**Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
Ascension Sunday ALLELUIA!!!
23rd May 2020**



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THE DEEP END – Ascension of the Lord

In the first reading today, we hear the words: ‘Men of Galilee why do you stand looking up towards heaven?’ If we only look skywards for Christ, we lose sight of the reality of His presence around us, in each and every person, in each created thing. This week, Catholic communities have been encouraged to celebrate *Laudato Si'* week to mark the fifth anniversary since the publication of Pope Francis' document on Care for Our Common Home. Parishes around the world have (hopefully) engaged in this celebration by looking at their relationship with God's creation, praying for our world and what we can do to protect it. In *Laudato Si'* we read, ‘What [Christians] need is an ‘ecological conversion,’ whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them’ (LS 217). This conversion calls for a number of attitudes, including gratitude, ‘a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in good works ... it entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from creatures but joined in a splendid universal communion ... each creature reflects something of God.’ (LS 220-221)

As we celebrate Ascension Sunday, we are reminded by Christ that we are carrying on his message of love to the world and that He is with us always. Christ is not one who has abandoned the world but rather one who is in this world, in all of creation. Like the disciples, committed to a cause, we are carriers of this message into the world, and this includes the message to care more deeply for the earth, our home, which we all share.

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins (not from our bulletin I hope)

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.



IN THE PARISH

AS PER CARDINAL JOHN DIRECTIVE ALL PARISH GATHERINGS CONTINUE TO BE SUSPENDED LEVEL 2

At the time of publication we wait for the announcement on Monday of any change to the conditions of our Level Two Alert status. The limitation on Sunday Mass gathering continues this weekend and we look forward to new instructions from the NZ Bishops Conference.

Work continues on preparations **WHEN** the current restrictions may be altered and a Parish Plan has been developed and is attached to this newsletter.

PLEASE read the attached plan and note significant changes that will be implemented as a response. These changes are temporary until we leave the COVID-19 regime.

The Action plan will only be implemented and Masses resumed when the restriction on social gatherings at Mass rise to 100. This weekend the limit is still 10 and so NO public Masses are being celebrated this weekend.

Any implementation/change to the current restrictions on offering public liturgies will of course be dependent on Government announcements and guidelines. We will try to keep you informed on changes as soon as possible through emails and other social media outlets.

As this bulletin is only published by direct email to you, and on our website, we are aware that there may be parishioners out in your local community who are not on the internet. Please, if you know these people please share this information with them.

In the meantime please keep yourselves safe, praying that we will gather again safely.

At present the **CURRENT LEVEL 2** restrictions continue to be in place with no public Masses this weekend or during the upcoming week. With you we await announcements from the Government and the Bishops.

COMING
UP



WARNING - a scam message is being sent to some people in Cardinal John's name seeking \$500 iTunes cards. This has also happened to some of the other New Zealand bishops. Please do not respond to it as the message does not come from him.

NZ CATHOLIC

Here is a link to the third digital edition of NZ Catholic.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/a27756d2-341a-4d87-a28e-cdbf07465386>



VIRTUAL CONGREGATION

Yes our virtual congregation is still growing with a couple of new families joining us 'in the pews' at the Sunday celebration at Our Lady of Grace Church. Welcome to the new attendees. Though no physical attendance was possible, the church was full with our *virtual congregation*. This congregation will be maintained until the virtual becomes a reality and we return to a real congregation when our isolation period ends.



So please continue to send in your photos to the Parish Office and 'join me' in prayer at 10:30 am each Sunday morning.

BOOKING IN SYSTEM FOR MASSES

Because the November Mass count indicated that following Mass attendance averages **5:30 pm 84 / 8:30 am 115 / 10:30 am 134** a Booking In system has been implemented in an attempt to ensure the cap of 100 people gathering is not exceeded. Parishioners access the system by the website <https://www.picktime.com/OLOVMassAvailability>

Intending attendees should book in to see if there is an available slot. Once the maximum is reached no more 'booking' can be accepted and you should 'book' another ceremony to attend.

Once 100 people are in the building, or Mass starts the front doors will be closed to ensure compliance with the gathering restrictions. **So it is important that a booking is made and you arrive in time to complete the Contract Tracing information.**

PLEASE READ THE ALERT LEVEL TWO ACTION PLAN ATTACHED for more details

RESOURCES FOR AN UNUSUAL TIME

Masses available on television: For those who do not have access to YouTube, Sunday Masses will be shown on Shine TV; found on Freeview channel 25 or, if you have Sky, channel 201. Watch on Sundays - 1.35 pm Sunday Mass celebrations: - streamed online along with Christian resources from The Wellington Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (with links to other Sunday Masses) <https://mcshwellington.org/on-line-liturgies/>

- 9.30am, Our Lady of Kapiti Parish, with Fr Michael McCabe

<https://kapiti-catholic.org.nz/>

- 9.30am, St Theresa's Parish Plimmerton, Mass Sunday–Friday with Fr Maurice Carmody, on YouTube channel. <http://www.plimmertoncatholic.org.nz/>

Weekday Mass with Pope Francis in his private chapel in Rome - 7pm (NZ time) <http://www.catholictv.org/shows/pope-francis-daily-mass>

The Archdiocese of Wellington website is adding resources almost daily. <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/> and

https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/resources-for-an-unusual-time/

NEED HELP – OFFER HELP’ –



A COVID-19 Response: Contact details for groups within the Archdiocese of Wellington who are meeting needs and offering social services to support wellbeing during the lockdown is available on the Archdiocese of Wellington website page "Need help, offer help":

www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/need-help-offer-help/

This webpage also includes details of how people can contribute, which is primarily through financial donations at this time, when goods are unable to be offered. Catholic social services (04-385-8642) social workers can also assist in connecting people to appropriate services. The page is regularly updated - please email l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz with any updates.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM



If you normally support the Parish financial with weekly donations at Sunday Mass and would still like to continue to donate, you can either place your donation into the letter-slot beside the front door of the presbytery, or do an internet banking deposit directly into the Parish bank account To arrange to move to Automatic Payment method please contact the Parish Office who will make

arrangements for this. *Thanks to those envelope givers who have already provided funds via internet banking. This is much appreciated.*

Our Bank Account Details are

BNZ 02 0772 0070279 00 Our Lady of the Valleys Parish

Please include your **Surname** on the deposit and if you usually donate using Planned Giving Envelopes please include **three digit number** printed on your envelopes in the **REFERENCE portion** so your donation can be recorded for Tax Donation purposes.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell especially Mary Duncan, those affected by the COVID-19 virus, and those who are lonely and worried. *We pray also for those who have died recently including Fr Michael O’Dea, John Riley, Shirley Quinn, Thomas Knapp, and Alan Ford. We also pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.*



Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
23 rd May Ascension Sunday		31 st May Pentecost Sunday	
First Reading	Acts 1:1-11	First Reading	Acts 2:1-11
Second Reading	Eph 1:17-23	Second Reading	1Cor 12:3-7,12-13
Gospel	Matt 28:16-20	Gospel	John 20:19-23

