



Te Whetu o te Moana | Star of the Sea Marlborough Catholic Parish

From the Sounds to the Sea, the Mountains to the Plains
We Are One Mission. One Parish. Seven Communities
 Blenheim | Havelock | Kaikoura | Picton | Renwick | Seddon | Ward
 Parish Office: 61 Maxwell Road, Blenheim | T. 03 578 0038
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Newsletter No 1: 6 January 2019

Feast of the Epiphany

Our Liturgy Plan
 When a priest is not available, Word & Communion will be led by parishioners.

Blenheim

Tues: 9.30am Mass
 Wed: 12.05pm Mass
 Thurs: 9.30 am Mass
Except 1st Thurs:
 Bethsaida **10.30am**
 Fri: 11am Adoration
 11.30 Reconciliation
 12.05pm Mass
 Sat: 9.30am Mass
 Reconciliation to follow

Sat: 5pm Mass

Sun: 10am Mass
 (2nd & 5th Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Havelock

Sunday: 11am
 (4th Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Kaikoura

Tues: 9.30am
 Wed: 9.30am
 Wed: 7pm Rosary
 Thurs: 5.15pm
 Fri: 9.30am
 Sun: 9.30am
 (1st & 3rd Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Picton

Wed: 9am Mass
 Sun: 9am Mass
 (4th Sunday:
 Word & Communion)

Renwick

3rd Sunday 5pm Mass

Seddon

Sun: 8am Mass
 (2nd & 5th Sunday
 Word & Communion)

Ward

4th Sunday 4pm Mass

Baptisms

Celebrated during weekend Mass or other times.

Marriages

Marriages celebrated in all our Churches. Please contact the Parish Office well in advance.

A Warm Welcome to Our Parish Family of Marlborough

We the people of Te Whetu O Te Moana, Star of the Sea Parish, are committed by our baptism in Christ, to share our living faith, and make God visible, in joyful union with all people, by our actions in the community. (Parish Mission Statement)

Parish Priest: Fr John Pearce CP
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 Manager/Secretary: Ginetta Petersen
 Office Assistant: Mandy Li
 Youth Ministers: Maurice & Mieke Davies
 stmarysyoungroup@xtra.co.nz 03 578 6772
 Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Greg Stretch
 Parish Finance Committee Chair: Tom Harrison

We're Still in the Christmas Season

It's been a wonderful Christmas once again across our Parish, as communities hopped in and made their Churches more welcoming around the Christmas Crib. More trees, more cribs, more people.

In all our Churches, the numbers were on the increase, more noticeable in the smaller communities like Seddon/Ward with 120 people, and Havelock with 49 people. Many travellers found



After the Three Wise Men left, the Three Wisest Women arrived.

our Churches, most at the right time, and walked away delighted for joining us. Thank you to all who prepared the Churches, and welcomed "the strangers".

Welcome to January and Summer Reading

January is a little more relaxed. No school. Annual holidays. Families have come and gone. Visitors dropping by. With the start of January, our Newsletter will bring you some Summer Reading on matters on living our Christian Faith in the world today. Enjoy.

A Climate for Change

Here in New Zealand, situated in the South Pacific, with a significant population of Islanders, we can't not be aware of the effects of climate change on our neighbours. My recent time in Suva, living at the Seminary and University and on flat land close to the sea, made me more aware of the impact of rising seas, regular storms, and displacement of people.

In the coming weeks we will have reading from the recent COP24 conference on Climate Change, with presentations from Church members to the world forum.

Our Church takes seriously its position as a voice for the powerless. I hope you enjoy the reading.

Happy New Year to all.

John Pearce CP

Readings for the Week after the Epiphany

Sun 6th: Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 4:12-17,23-25
 Psalm Response:

Mon 7th: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tues 8th: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

Wed 9th: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

Thu 10th: 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22

Fri 11th: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

Sat 12th: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

Sun 13th: Baptism of the Lord.

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Christmas Message from Pope Francis

We Are All Brothers and Sisters

By Gerard O'Connell, NCR, 25 Dec 2018



On Christmas day, Pope Francis delivered his blessing "urbi et orbi" ("to the city and the world") and made a heartfelt appeal for

"fraternity" among peoples and nations, as he addressed a world where polarization is being stoked by political forces that exploit people's fears, and where conflicts are being fought in places like Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ukraine, and between Israelis and Palestinians.

He reminded people everywhere that "the universal message of Christmas is that God is a good Father and we are all brothers and sisters." He said "this truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity."

He called for "fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture," and "fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another," as well as "fraternity among persons of different religions."

He emphasized that "without the fraternity that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty."

For his sixth year as pope, Francis delivered his Christmas message commemorating the birth of Jesus, from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on a sunny Christmas day. In an internationally televised address, he told the 50,000 pilgrims from all continents gathered in St. Peter's Square, and a global audience estimated at more than one billion people, that "my wish for a happy Christmas is a wish for fraternity."

He reminded everyone that "Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him" and that by his birth in Bethlehem "the face of God has been revealed in a human face."

By becoming man, he said, "the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet, all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity!"

Consequently, he said, "our differences, then, are not a detri-

ment or a danger; they are a source of richness." He said "the experience of families teaches us this: as brothers and sisters, we are all different from each other. We do not always agree, but there is an unbreakable bond uniting us, and the love of our parents helps us to love one another." He explained that "the same is true for the larger human family, but here, God is our 'parent,' the foundation and strength of our fraternity."

Then in looking to specific areas of conflict across the globe, Francis began with the land where Jesus was born, and prayed that the Christmas message of fraternity "may enable Israelis and Palestinians to resume dialogue and undertake a journey of peace that can put an end to a conflict that for over seventy years has rent the land chosen by the Lord to show his face of love."

He next prayed for an end to the eight-year war in Syria that has caused the deaths of an estimated half a million people and driven millions into exile. He prayed that Syrians may rediscover fraternity after these long years of war, and he appealed yet again to the international community "to work decisively for a political solution that can put aside divisions and partisan interests, so that the Syrian people, especially all those who were forced to leave their own lands and seek refuge elsewhere, can return to live in peace in their own country."

Turning his gaze to war-torn Yemen, he prayed that "the truce brokered by the international community" in recent times "may finally bring relief to all those children and people exhausted by war and famine."

He prayed too for an end to conflicts and "a new dawn of fraternity" in Africa, "where millions of persons are refugees or displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance and food security." He prayed that Jesus may bless "the efforts of all those who work to promote paths of reconciliation in political and social life." Francis will visit this continent for the second time in the summer, and is expected to reinforce that message

Moving to Asia which he has already visited three times, Francis prayed that Jesus may "consolidate the bonds of fraternity uniting the Korean peninsula" and "help the path of rapprochement recently undertaken to continue and to reach agreed solutions capable of ensuring the development and well-being of all." He is due to visit Ja-

pan later this year and might also visit North Korea if he receives an official invitation.

Returning to Europe, he prayed that the Child Jesus "may bring relief to the beloved land of Ukraine, yearning to regain a lasting peace that is slow to come", a reference to the conflict with Russia that has continued to simmer following the annexation of Crimea by Russia. He emphasized that it is "only with a peace respectful of the rights of every nation can the country recover from the sufferings it has endured and restore dignified living conditions for its citizens." He assured the Christian communities of the region of his closeness to them and prayed "that they may develop relationships of fraternity and friendship."

Then turning to Latin America where he was born, Pope Francis prayed that Venezuela—a country that has been brought to its knees due to internal civil conflict—"may once more recover social harmony and enable all the members of society to work fraternally for the country's development and to aid the most vulnerable sectors of the population."

He next prayed to the Child Jesus for the inhabitants of beloved Nicaragua that "they may see themselves once more as brothers and sisters, so that divisions and discord will not prevail, but all may work to promote reconciliation and to build together the future of the country."

He also expressed a word of concern for "all those peoples that experience ideological, cultural and economic forms of colonization and see their freedom and identity compromised" and for "those suffering from hunger and the lack of educational and health care services."

Pope Francis prayed especially for "our brothers and sisters who celebrate the birth of the Lord in difficult, if not hostile situations, especially where the Christian community is a minority, often vulnerable or not taken into account." He prayed that Jesus may enable them and "all minorities" to "live in peace and see their rights recognized, especially the right to religious freedom."

He concluded by asking that the child Jesus "may watch over all the children of the world, and every frail, vulnerable and discarded person," and help everyone in the world to realize that "we are brothers and sisters" and enable us "to live as such."

Christmas Message from Archbishop of Suva



A Green Catholic Christmas 19 December 2018

'Jesus Christ is born to all Creation'

Christian tradition celebrates Christmas as the birth of Jesus to Mary. Christian faith holds that Jesus is both human and divine. Hence, Christians gave Jesus the titles, The Christ, Lord, Messiah, and Son of God. For Christians, Jesus Christ is the medium of God's revelation to the world. In other words, Christians come to know God through Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals God to Christians. Jesus' life, teachings, healings, suffering, death and resurrection revealed to the early Christians God's salvation.

The question that our world faces today is not about the existence of God but rather, how God and our faith can save our Mother Earth and human suffering. Pope Francis calls us to hear the cry of Mother Earth and the cry of the poor. The question for Christians during this Christmas season is: How does Christmas help us to see Jesus in the cry of the Mother Earth and the cry of the poor?

The Cosmic Christ

It is interesting that the early Christian communities saw Jesus in a universal and even cosmic context. Mathew's gospel places the story of Jesus back to Abraham, father of the Hebrew people. Luke gospel places Jesus in the entire history of humankind, beginning with Adam. John's gospel traces the origins of Jesus the Christ into the very mystery of God: "In the beginning was the word ... the Word was God ... and the Word was flesh." In the Year 50 AD when Paul wrote the first letter to the Corinthians, (before the gospels were written) he said that belief in Jesus Christ has to do with the mystery of creation: "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are and through whom we exist." (1Cor. 8:6)

Paul's letter to the Colossians states that Jesus Christ is the center and source of all creation: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Col 1:15-17)

Pope Francis in his letter to the world, 'Care for Our Common Home, Laudato Si' also teaches the cosmic presence of Jesus

Christ: "The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, and this has already been obtained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things." (Laudato Si, 83). Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light." (ibid; 100, 221)

While Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, it also tells us that the Christ, the Word of God is born into to the whole of humanity and creation. Christmas calls us to see Jesus beyond the crib in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Christmas impels us to see Jesus in the whole creation and to work with the breath of God that is renewing the face of the earth. Our Christmas celebration should help us to see Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh in humankind and planted in the flesh of the earth. Christmas draws us into the heart of humanity and the heart of creation. Christmas therefore is not only for Christians but for all who share this common home, Mother Earth. Christmas is a time to care for others and our Mother Earth.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I take this time to sincerely thank you for your support and prayers for the Archdiocese of Suva's pastoral mission. I wish you all a 'Green Christmas'; eat less or no meat, plant more trees, and protect our Mother Earth.

Yours sincerely in Christ
Archbishop Peter Chong

This Christmas Give Me the Gift of Memory

A Christmas Prayer for (nearly) Everyone

James Martin SJ, America The Magazine,
21 December 2017.



Dear God, I know that it is Christmas and I am supposed to be focused on the birth of Jesus, but once again Advent came and went and all I did was focus on so many other things.

So, this Christmas, please help me remember a few simple things, even if I am stressed from shopping and travel, lonely from a

lack of friends and family, sick from a difficult illness or poor from the lack of work or a living wage.

Help me remember that when you became human, you came into the world in the most vulnerable way possible—as an infant. That meant that you were totally dependent on Mary and Joseph to care for you. And when you left this world, naked on a cross, you were vulnerable, too. That shows what you were willing to do just to love me. **You were vulnerable for me.**

Help me remember that when you came into this world, it was not into some powerful clan in Galilee, not into some great ruling family of Judea and certainly not into a royal dynasty in Rome. You could have come in power and exercised that power

as a scholar, a soldier, a king or an emperor. Instead, you came with no earthly power at all. **You were powerless for me.**

Help me remember that you could have entered the world in a wealthy family. There was no need for you to be born to a young, probably illiterate woman who was married to a simple carpenter and who lived in a town so insignificant that one of your disciples would make a joke about it. But you chose not only to enter a poor family but to toil for many years as a laborer yourself. **You were poor for me.**

Help me remember that you spent most of your life in obscurity in Nazareth, living an everyday life and working as a carpenter alongside Joseph. You were not well known. You did not set out to make a big name for

This Christmas Give Me the Gift of Memory

Glory to God



yourself. In fact, the Gospels barely mention your hidden life in Nazareth, the place you spent your first 30 years. That is how simple, obscure and uneventful most of your life was. **You were unknown for me.**

Help me remember that when you became human you took on a human body. That means that you experienced everything that anybody does. You had stomach aches and headaches, got colds and the flu, experienced hunger and thirst, and grew weary at the end of a long day. It also means that you experienced joy and sadness, frustration and anger, and all the emotions that any human being does, even in your divinity. **You were human for me.**

Help me remember that your entire life, from your birth to your death on a cross, was spent in love. You loved Mary and Joseph and your whole extended family. Later, you loved your friends, disciples and followers. You loved even your enemies and persecutors. And you had a special love for anyone who was poor, sick, lonely, misunderstood or marginalized in any way. Your entire life was poured out as one great offering of love. **You were love for me.**

Help me remember that you offered yourself without counting the cost. You preached the good news to the poor, healed the sick and shared the coming of the reign of God with everyone. Not everyone wanted to hear your message, but you kept proclaiming it until your death. You gave your whole self for humanity, even when we rejected you. You gave up even your body and spirit on the cross. **You were everything for me.**

Help me remember that Christmas is only the beginning of the story. After your death, you returned as the Risen One, never again to die, offering hope in the face of despair, love in the face of hate and life in the face of death.

Your rising on Easter Sunday revealed the same message that the angel told your mother when he announced the coming Christmas: Nothing is impossible with God! **You are life for me.**

Dear God, I know that I don't always remember these things at Christmas. There are so many emotions swirling in my head this time of year. But I want to remember them. And I trust that the desire to remember them is itself a good thing and comes from you.

This Christmas, give me the gift of memory, and I will remember that you became love for me, so that I can become love for others.

Parish Masses

January Weekday Masses

During the school holidays, Weekday Masses will be on holiday mode.

At St Mary's, Masses will be Tuesday to Saturday at 9.30am, unless otherwise advised.

At St Joseph's Picton, the Wednesday Mass resumes Jan10.

WEEKENDS

Epiphany of the Lord (1)

Sat Jan 5

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Denis

Sun Jan 6

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Denis

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John

Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr Denis

Havelock (11) Mass/Fr Pat

Baptism of the Lord (2)

Sat Jan 12

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John

Sun Jan 13

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Pat

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Denis

Blenheim (10am) Mass/ Fr Pat

Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr John

2nd Sunday of the Year (3)

Denis unavailable this weekend.

Sat Jan 19

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat

Sun Jan 20

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr John

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat

Kaikoura (9.30) **W&C**

Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr John

Havelock (11) Mass/Fr Pat



Parish Events

Parish Office

The Parish Office will open on Monday January 14.

Feb 17: Registration for Children's Sacraments

After Sunday Masses in Blenheim & Kaikoura, there will be an information Session and opportunity for Registration for Children's Sacraments for 2019. This is for children and teenagers from Year 4 and above.

If you can't make it, please contact Fr John by Email.

Feb 24: Awatere/Flaxbourne Community Cricket Test.

An initiative of our Stewardship Group, and supported by the Awatere Joint Venture Community, we will start with a Prayer Service at 4pm in The Shed at The Domain, with modified rules Inter Community Cricket Match, with BBQ.

This initiative is part of our ongoing Post EQ Community Building ministry for Seddon & Ward.



March 2: Breakfast with Cardinal John 7.30-9am

For your diary ... We have booked Clubs of Marlborough for Breakfast with Cardinal John for Saturday March 2. Big breakfast cost is \$20 ea. A great start to our Growing in Faith and Service for 2019.

Bookings are essential. Contact the Parish Office after Jan 14. Numbers are limited.

March 1: Catholic Schools Commissioning Mass.

On Fri Mar 1, Cardinal John will lead a Commissioning Mass for Schools in the Top of the South. St Mary's is this year's host church.

April 15: South Island Chrism Mass Comes to Blenheim

St Mary's will be this year's host Church for the Top of the South Parishes Chrism Mass with Cardinal John.

We will need to help with catering for travellers before Mass, refreshments for all after Mass, and with the music and liturgy. This is our first opportunity to present our selves as a whole parish, working together. More information later.