

PARISH of ST MICHAEL

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Pastor's Column : 5th Sunday of Lent

Pope Francis recently spot-lighted the issue of capital punishment in his controversial change to the Catholic Catechism. Those who argue for the validity of capital punishment, especially for the case of murder, justify it on the grounds of the unique importance and value of human life; if an innocent party is murdered then the murderer's life must be forfeited, precisely and paradoxically to underscore life's value. The question that confronts those who hold to this position is; would you be prepared to flick the switch, or inject the potassium chloride or pull the trap-door's lever? We can only curiously speculate what Jesus was thinking when confronted with the woman who was caught, "in flagrante delictu!" Curiosity killed the cat, as the saying goes. Paradoxically again the origin of that morphed saying was, "Care (read worry or sorrow) killed the cat. Shakespeare used it in 1599 in his play, "Much Ado about nothing!" "What courage man! What, though care killed a cat, thou has mettle enough in thee to kill care!" It is so relevant as Jesus' shaming of the woman's accuser's lead eventually to his own death. Some speculative possibilities; was Jesus thinking of his own Mother's predicament concerning his conception and Joseph's conundrum as what to do with Mary, (from a human point of view perceived to have committed adultery). Jesus' consciousness of his Divine Personhood and so the Bridegroom of his adulteress bride, Israel, found himself as the cuckolded husband, with the right under Mosaic Law (the Law He Himself has initiated) to stone her; after all He was the only one without sin justified to do so? From writing with his finger on the ground, it is not much of an imaginative leap to writing on a wall! Would the women's accusers made that connection with the book of Daniel, when a finger appeared during the feast held by the doomed Babylonian Monarch, writing in Aramaic; mene, mene, tequel and parsin. They then may have remembered that the seer Daniel had rescued Susanna, falsely accused of adultery by the most respected members of the community, who themselves had lecherous designs on her, which she had rebuffed. Jesus was faced with a conflicted situation. Under Roman Law, Jews were not allowed to enact capital punishment; under Mosaic Law, they were. If Jesus opted either way they had him compromised! Anticipating a kind of Hegelian dichotomy (thesis, antithesis, so synthesis), He more subtly avoids the conflict. Under Mosaic Law, the witnesses of adultery (probably) including the husband, weren't required to throw the first stone (unlike for apostasy). Jesus is intensifying the law, challenging the husband to be the first to throw a rock at his wife! A husband, in his anger, may wish his wife dead in an anonymous hail of rocks, but would he, with everyone watching, take the initiative and with her eyes fixed on him too? Psalm 103 may have been coursing through Jesus mind as his finger traced through the dust: "...He does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor repay us as befits our offences....He knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust." Justice may hold account and mercy forgives. In Jesus, we need to remember, God Himself, his justice is his mercy and his mercy is his justice; justice and mercy are one.

Fr Tony Dunn

6th April 2019

Parish of St Michael, Remuera
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Parish Priest: Father Tony Dunn
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In residence: Father Stephen Berecz
sberecz@gmail.com

Office Manager: Fiona Twomey

Baptism Preparation:
Pauline loelu

Religious Education:
Sr Francis Kelly (adults)
Emma Houghton (children)

Caring Co-ordinator:
Kathryn Schollum

Music Rosters: Louise Porter

Sunday Masses:

Sunday Eucharist:
8:00am, 10:00am, 8:30pm
Saturday Evening 5:00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday Cluny Convent 7:15am
NOT DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
(St Michael's) Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Saturday 8:00am
Wednesday 9:15am
Friday 12:05pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

After Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8am Mass
& 11am Friday

Anointing of the Sick:

First Friday of each month 11am
Exposition to follow

Reconciliation:

Friday 11:25am & Saturday 8:30am
or by appointment

READINGS THIS SUNDAY

1. Joshua 5:9-12
2. 2Corinthians 5:17-21

PROLIFE FACTS

March for Life December 2018: More than 1200 people gathered in Wellington City's Civic Square shortly before Christmas 2018 to send a message of hope and compassion, and to stand up for the right to life of pre-born human beings. Another March for Life is being planned for December this year as well.

For more pro-life info, visit the VFL website
www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

The Lord has done great things; we are filled with joy

Remember not the past events, the things of long ago
-Isaiah 43

I am doing something new, do you not see it?
-Isaiah 43

Not what lies behind, I consider them rubbish
-Phil (Phil 3)

... strain to what lies ahead, continue pursuit toward the goal
-Phil (Phil 3)

Is your goal the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus?



Reflection Day 'Weekly Meditation' – Each Thursday starting 7th February 2019 - 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

This weekly Christian meditation time at Mary MacKillop Chapel will offer an opportunity to gather in silence and together to enter the place of Mystery where we are drawn deeper into the Well of Love within us and grow in appreciation of the unfolding of this Love in all of Life.

Facilitator: Lead by Team **Date:** Each Thursday starting 7th February 2019 - 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Mary MacKillop Chapel - 56 Selwyn Avenue Mission Bay Auckland **No Registration required.**

Stabat Mater – Choral Reflections for Good Friday

The Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph continues their Holy Week tradition of offering a concert of choral music that reflects the nature of Good Friday. The Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph's Vocal Ensemble present a selection of beautiful, reflective pieces for Good Friday, including Robert White's haunting setting of the Lamentations and Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's Beatitudes.

Friday 19 April, 7.30 pm FREE ENTRY. Retiring donations welcome.

Validated parking available at the Wilson car parks, Hobson St (\$4) & Durham Lane (\$2).

<https://www.facebook.com/events/421605225321118/> See Church Noticeboard in Foyer

The Catholic Caring Foundation Grants, 2019: Caring for families; caring for communities

The Bishop of Auckland's charitable foundation, The Catholic Caring Foundation, is now accepting applications for grants for 2019. The Foundation, through donations from donors, provides grants to social service providers and organisations who care for and support families and communities throughout the greater Auckland area.

Grant applications close on Apr 12th, 2019. For an application form & more information, visit: www.caringfoundation.org.nz

MARRIED COUPLES: Revitalise and enrich your intimacy, love and romance in your marriage. Attend the *non-residential* MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - 25-26 May at St Francis Retreat Centre, Mt Roskill. **BOOK NOW!** – Phone 0800-362686 or Christine & David Sloan 372-3581 or Email: david.christinesloan@gmail.com



Mercy Spirituality Centre 104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **Gratitude in the Bible: Psalms and St Luke's Gospel** with Fr KEVIN WALDIE sm. Wed 10 April, 10.30am-12.30pm. \$15. We will explore the biblical idea of "gratitude" and how it applies to our everyday life. By considering selected passages from the Bible we will connect "gratitude" with words such as grace, graciousness, and thanksgiving.
- **LENTEN SERIES: Journey of the Cross** Fridays during Lent, 7-8.30pm. \$10 each session... 12 April – Contemplation at the Foot of the Cross with CATHRYN WILES-PICKARD rsm
- **New Zealand SIGN LANGUAGE: With Sign language – we are equal and accessible** with RACHEL MARR & ERIC MATTHEWS. Wed 1 May, 10.30am-12.30pm. \$15

See website for details. Bookings essential, email: info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz to register.

Stations of the Cross - Our Lady Star of the Sea Howick Good Friday 9.00am - All welcome.

We remember those whose have recently died:

Tony (Denys Anthony) Price, Mirna (Belic) Radich

Please pray for those who are in need of our prayers, especially:

Tony Vela, Ruth Searchfield, Elaine Lunken

Passion Sunday: 13th & 14th April 2019 : Roster

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm T. Parsons, P. Pinto, J. Rooney, M. Rooney, J. Salivio
Sunday 8.00am F. McKewen, A. Nicol, A. Patel, J. Penney, A. Scaria
Sunday 10.00am R. Murray, N. Platt, P. Porteous, J. Spencer, A. Stevenson, E. Taumoepeau,
D. Albert, S. Johnson

PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD:

Saturday 5.00pm Shenali Fernando, Philomena Pinto (PoF)
Sunday 8.00am Bernard Kendall, Kerry McKewen (PoF)
Sunday 10.00am Jane Gordon, Louise Gordon (PoF)
Holy Thursday Sr Alice Hardiman

COLLECTORS:

Saturday 5.00pm Ant Martin
Sunday 8.00am Tom Maloney, Ernie Cavanagh
Sunday 10.00am Fitzmaurice Family

COUNTERS:

Eva Shorayi

LAPTOP OPERATORS:

Saturday 5.00pm Enzo Villarama
Sunday 8.00am Bernard Kendall
Sunday 10.00am Jennifer Cordtz

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday 5.00pm: Francine Morais, Ben Morais, Hiranya Fernando
Sunday 10.00am: Emily Choi, William Harris, Micayla-Jane Elika, Gian Pollaruste

SANCTUARY CARE: Anne McLellan & Judy Aldridge

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: School Holidays

MUSICIANS/CANTORS:

Saturday 5.00pm Alice O'Neill, James Ioelu
Sunday 8.00am Matthew Harris
Sunday 10.00am Mike Cruz, Alleluia Choir

Readings 13/14 April

1. Isaiah 50:4-7
2. Philippians 2:6-11

Readings Holy Thursday

1. Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
2. Corinthians 11:23-26



\$4 in the papers box in the foyer please

NOTICES

St Michael's Mission Statement
We the parishioners of St Michael's as a
Eucharistic family seek to live and share our faith
in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Stations of the Cross – 6:00pm
Fridays of Lent (8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March and 5th, 12th April)

Confession / Reconciliation. Will be available on Sundays in Lent 9 – 9:30am.

St Michael's Catholic School - Enrollments for 2020 are filling up fast. Please if you have a child turning five next year get your enrollment in to us ASAP. To download an Application For Enrolment go to <https://www.smcs.school.nz/> Parent Information / Enrolment Information. If you would like to have a tour of our school email secretary@smcs.school.nz or Phone: 5200933.



Baptism Preparation Course The next course being facilitated for families to prepare for baptism is beginning on 2nd June. Sessions will be held in the presbytery after 10am mass on Sunday 2nd, 9th and 16th June. Attendance at all 3 sessions is necessary. If you would like to enrol, please contact the parish office office@remueracatholic.org.nz or phone 520-1226.

St Michael's Rosary Group meets weekly on Tuesday at 7:30-8:30pm in the Parish House. All welcome. Contact Anne Cotton on 520 5335 or 021 644 692 or acotton@maxnet.co.nz

Legion of Mary meets weekly on Sundays from 9-10am in the Parish House. All welcome to attend. Contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or carole.kenealy@gmail.com

St Michael's are starting a **pro-life rosary** at 8pm before the Sunday 8.30pm mass. All welcome.

St Michael's Caring & Support Committee - Volunteers sought

Committed and enthusiastic parishioners are invited to apply to become members of the committee as it sets up its programme to provide help to those in need in the community.

Parishioners helped by the programme will be:

- the poor and disadvantaged
- those who need practical assistance to ease their lives; this will include transport to Mass, visiting the sick and elderly, taking Holy Communion to the housebound, and similar works of mercy and comfort.

The committee will identify the needs, plan and coordinate the help, recruit other parishioners to help them provide what is needed. They will work closely with the parish priest and parishioners already providing care, and also with the Catholic Caring Foundation, St Vincent de Paul and other organisations.

Successful applicants will be parishioners with energy and excellent organisational skills who want to serve the community and make a difference.

Applications in writing with details of relevant experience and qualifications to the parish office office@remueracatholic.org.nz by 23 April 2019 please.

Beginning Experience Weekend: In Auckland, Fri evening 14 June-Sunday afternoon 16 June 2019. A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of separation, divorce or widowhood. The programme provides support for the grieving single again, and offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. Total cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, materials and follow-up event is \$325. Early Bird concession \$295 if paid by 3 May. For further information contact Carol (021) 169 0222 or Bev (09) 298 9943 or www.beginningexperience.org.nz.

Palm Sunday Candlelight Vigil for the Unborn. Sunday 14 April @ 7pm. Come join caring people from all over Auckland in an annual peaceful prayer vigil outside AMAC where more than 1000 babies lose their lives to abortion every year. We mourn their lives and pray for healing for all those impacted by the tragedy of abortion and for the conversion of clinic workers. 283 Dominion Road, Mt Eden. See Noticeboard for Poster

Job Vacancy

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart are looking for a part time qualified Archivist to work at the Mary MacKillop Centre Archive Office in Mission Bay. Please send a CV to Sr Jill McLoughlin jill.mcloughlin@sosi.org.au by April 12 if you are interested in applying for this position and a job description will be sent out to you.

END OF LIFE CHOICE BILL – PLEASE SIGN PETITION TODAY!

The Euthanasia bill sponsored by MP David Seymour is about to get its Second Reading and Vote in parliament. The Bill is dangerous and does not contain effective safeguards. Check out the dangers of this Bill by visiting www.carealliance.org.nz or www.defendnz.co.nz

Some MPs are saying they will vote according to what their people tell them. We need every one of you who is of, or near, voting age to let your MP know your opposition to this Bill by signing a petition.

There will be opportunities to do this at Masses in the parish the weekends of 6-7 April and 13-14 April.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office office@remueracatholic.org.nz

St Luke's are hosting a concert by Christ's Choir Cambridge, UK on Friday 12th July.

The choir is seeking accommodation for the nights of Thursday 11th & Friday 12th July. While St Luke's can offer a few beds, we are asking if a request for accommodation can be passed on to St Michael's parish members.

Hosts will only need to provide breakfast. Choir members are happy to share rooms and, if necessary, beds. Please outline the number of beds and rooms available (e.g. two singles in two rooms; one double and one single in two rooms). Please list any pets in the house, since some singers have allergies. If hosts have a preference of hosting male or female singers, or have a preference as to whether or not they host a vegetarian/vegan, please indicate.

Any help you can give St Luke's would be HUGELY appreciated! Pamela Day-Administrator pamela@stlukes.org.nz

Diocesan Job Vacancies – See Church Noticeboard for job descriptions or visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

- **Justice and Peace Desk, Parish & Pastoral Services Group**
- **Part Time Catholic Chaplain for Auckland City Clinics**
- **Part Time Prison Chaplain**

To view the full advertisements and position descriptions for the above roles, please visit our website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz under Administration and staff vacancies. Applications close on 18th and 24th April 2019.