

# PARISH of ST MICHAEL

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Pastor's Column : 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday 2019

In 2016 the movie "Silence," by Martin Scorsese was released. It was based on a novel of historical fiction, of the same name, by Shusaku Endo. It tells the story of the Jesuit missionaries in Japan in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the torture of mind and body they had to endure for Christ. The palpable tension in the movie is accentuated by the silence of God in response to their prayers and whether they succumb to the ever present temptation to apostasize. Did they? You will have to watch the movie to find out. Andrew Garfield, of Spider Man fame, demonstrates his exceptional talent as an actor as one of the key figures in the drama. One key question arises; what motivated these men to risk all for the sake of the Gospel? A partial answer can be found in today's gospel and its opening question; "Sir, will there be only a few saved?" The contemporary response might well reflect a kind of Universalist mind-set, that everyone will be saved- eventually. It can be seen in modern funerals which often morph into canonisation ceremonies, even if the deceased was a cad, conflicting with the Church's liturgy of a prayer for forgiveness of sins and for God's mercy. How does Jesus, God himself respond? Quite the opposite! The question was asked in the context of the Judaism of Jesus time and the question was much alive. Will all of Israel be saved or just a remnant. The Mishna describes two opinions; one exclusive of the 10 lost tribes, the wicked destroyed by the flood, the men of Sodom etc. Another school was more universalist in its approach. Jesus clearly lent his opinion to the "remnant" school! He was following Isaiah as we read in Chapter 10; that though the Israelites may number as many as the sands of the sea, only a remnant will be saved. Jesus uses the image of a narrow gateway into a city where very many are striving to enter, but only a few make it through. He uses a parable of a householder hosting a feast. He links not knowing to wickedness, aka, sin. It is not enough to be his acquaintance, to have heard him preach; he has to know you, because you live and act in communion with him. Sin self-excludes one from Jesus' feast of the kingdom. Faith alone is not sufficient; obedience to the Word of God is also required for salvation. The living tradition of the Church, following Jesus, emphasises the few over the many, not the minority view of Universalism suggested by Origen. This is a hard saying. We are to strive to enter by the narrow gate, as the road to perdition is wide and spacious and many take it. And so we discover the driving motivation and urgency of the early Jesuit missionaries to share Jesus Good News of salvation with all, even at the risk of losing their lives, as many did or paradoxically, to risk apostasy, as some did! The Gospel challenges us with Jesus own words and understanding; the urgency of turning away from sin and believing and living the Gospel. The living tradition reminds us, that this call is in itself an expression of the mercy of God. We pray in the Rosary the prayer requested by Our Lady at Fatima: " O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and bring all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy!"

Fr Tony Dunn

24<sup>th</sup> August 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](mailto: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. Isaiah 66:18-21
2. Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

### PROLIFE FACTS

A message from Voice for Life (VFL) president Jacqui de Ruiter has recently been sent out to VFL members nationwide. The possibility of abortion being decriminalised and assisted suicide and euthanasia being introduced led to de Ruiter summing up the last year as "one of the most intense and challenging for the pro-life movement". For more pro-life information visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).

I am coming to gather all nations  
they shall see my glory - Isaiah 66

How do you bring your families and friends to a gathering?

- Do you place a signage, balloons on the road?
- Do you send out FB, Instagram or email invites?
- Or do you visit them in person to spread the news?



Go! Go out to all the world and tell the Good News!



The Aug. 25 – Sept. 7 issue of **NZ Catholic** is out now. Some headlines are: Revitalising parishes Monday to Saturday. Fr Martin Wu ordained in Auckland. Bishop Stuart O'Connell was approachable and encouraging. Soup for southern souls – and bodies.  
**\$4 in the papers box in the Church Foyer please.**

Birthdays Celebrations of our Blessed Mother Mary through Novena, Rosary and Mass in Honour of our Blessed Mother of Good Health, Vailankanni daily from **29 August to 8 September 2019** at 6:30pm. We invite all families and friends to come to St Mary's Parish, 2134 Great North Road, Avondale and join the pilgrimage. Bishop Patrick Dunn, Bishop Denis Browne and also Priests from different Parishes will celebrate Holy Mass each evening.

Through Mother Mary's powerful intercession, your prayers and petitions will find favour with her Son Jesus Christ. For more details please call Cynthia on 813 2101 or Helen 834 7798

**Christian Life Program** - Couples for Christ and its Family Ministries invite you to a Christian Life Program starting on 31 August (Sat), 1-4pm at St Mark's Parish Hall in Pakuranga. The program is designed to deepen our Christian faith for a fuller experience of God's empowering grace in our lives. Come and meet new people on a spiritual journey through insightful talks, inspiring testimonies and fellowship. Open to all Christian families, couples and adult individuals. Visit [www.clprekindle.co.nz](http://www.clprekindle.co.nz) to register. See Noticeboard in Church Porch

### THE LIFE album release on prison tour

Prison Chaplaincy Services invites you to NICKY MORAN Gospel musician NZ Prison Tour  
THE LIFE Album release - 10 ex-prisoners' original redemption songs. **Friday 20 September 7.30pm**  
St Michael's School Hall, 6 Beatrice Rd, REMUERA (off street parking available)  
A concert for Prison Chaplaincy volunteers and supporters. Multi instrumental live looping. Inspirational original songs. Free entry. Supper & optional Koha. [www.nickymoran.com](http://www.nickymoran.com) <https://youtu.be/5c1ydKQEOFW>

The first educators of faith are parents/whānau. <https://www.faithjourney.co.nz/> is a wonderful depository of family-friendly material for the domestic Church. It comes from the Bishops' Conference *National Centre for Religious Studies*. New materials are continually being uploaded. Explore!

**Marian Early Childhood Centre** is an apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland located in Panmure beside St. Patrick's Church. We cater to children from 2 to 5 years of age. Our times have been extended. **The Centre now operates Monday to Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.**

The Centre has been in operation since 1999 and was created for and has been faithfully serving the young children in the Catholic parishes of the Eastern Deanery. We are a Catholic Early Childhood Centre and we follow the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement. Our programme is guided by the Catholic Liturgical Calendar and focuses on catholic values and virtues. See Noticeboard in Church Foyer.

We remember those who have recently died:

**Sr Susanne Keenan, Henrich Yumul**

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

**Yvonne Franklin, Kitty McKewen**

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

**Nell Graham, Eileen Martin, Judy Ganley, Jenny Hart**

ROSTER	21st Sunday Ordinary Time 24th & 25th August 2019	22nd Sunday Ordinary Time 31st August & 1st September 2019
	<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	
Sat 5pm	Cristina Mendoza (G), Francisco Byun (P), Shenali Fernando	Issa Ilo-Cabiling (G), Cristina Mendoza (P), Philomena Pinto, John Salivio, Nelson Aguirre
Sun 8am	Fay McKewen (G), Jane Penney (P), Teresa Wong	Andrew Patel (G), Teresa Wong (P), Jane Penney, Ann Shaw, Tina Fitness
Sun 10am	Anne Stevenson (G), Jonathan Spencer (P), Elizabeth Taumoepeau	Julie-Ann Eggermont (G), Jonathan Spencer (P), Reuben Katigbak, Maricel D'Souza, Sara-Jayne Kingston
<b>Proclaimers of the Word</b>		
	<b>1. Isaiah 66:18-21      2. Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13</b>	<b>1. Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29   2. Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24</b>
Sat 5pm	Zac Cabiling, Issa Ilo-Cabiling (PoF)	Viki Cullen, Fiona Twomey (PoF)
Sun 8am	Catherine Husheer, John Shaw (PoF)	Eileen Piper-Robinson, Russell Watt (PoF)
Sun 10am	Cara Fonseca-Ensor, Michael Pender (PoF)	Emma Houghton, Kathryn Schollum (PoF)
<b>Collectors</b>		
Sat 5pm	Birgita Muller	Ant Martin
Sun 8am	Tom Piggin, Yvonne MacMillan	Tom Maloney, Ernie Cavanagh
Sun 10am	Fitzmaurice Family <b>Counters:</b> Helen & Tony Turner	Maria Flordeliza, Alex Houghton <b>Counters:</b> Eva Shorayi
<b>Laptop Operators</b>		
Sat 5pm	Surajith Fernando	Winston Teo
Sun 8am	Kerry McKewen	Mike Molloy
Sun 10am	Marie Olvido	Yelena Cordtz
<b>Altar Servers</b>		
Sat 5pm	Sydelle Kumar, Sophia Canale, Zander Cabiling	Esmenia D'Souza, Hiranya Fernando, Santiago Aguirre
Sun 10am	William Harris, Micayla-Jane Elika, Gian Pollaruste	Liam Houghton, Eva Houghton, Jonathan Luxford
<b>Sanctuary Care</b>		
	Sali Pearson & Cathy Ferguson	Eric Balderas, Meg Crisostomo
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>		
Sun 10am	Caroline Harris	Susan Woolley
<b>Musicians / Cantors</b>		
Sat 5pm	Robert Loretz, Neil Moraes	Annemarie Kerridge, Louise Porter
Sun 8am	Edmond Wong	Neil Moraes
Sun 10am	Matthew Harris, Anna Dolan, Cameron Downey	Matthew Harris, Cameron Downey

### NOTICES

**The Chalice will not be offered at mass, nor will there be shaking of hands (until further notice) in an effort to contain the spread of the flu virus.**

#### Appointment of Pastoral Council

The Steering Committee commissioned to select the members of the Pastoral Council, for a three-year term, commencing from the end of the Parish Annual Meeting held on Sunday 11 August 2019, have selected the following persons:

<b>Anna Lu</b>	<b>Terisa Cordtz</b>	<b>Anne Stevenson</b>	<b>Jonathan Spencer</b>	<b>Issa Ilo-Cabiling</b>
<b>Steve Hughes</b>	<b>Dan Stollenwerk</b>	<b>Silvio Duarte</b>	<b>Michael Pender</b>	<b>Michael Molloy</b>

The Steering Committee members (Frances Hay-MacKenzie and Jo Livingston) have confirmed that the new Parish Council Members listed above have been selected and appointed in accordance with the relevant Diocesan guidelines.

**Winter Seminar : Wednesday 11 September** *THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT* led by Justin Taylor SM

*"What is the power of the Spirit that was given to Peter and Paul and the early Church?"*

7.30pm in the Parish Centre. More information in the church porch and on the website [www.remueracatholic.org.nz](http://www.remueracatholic.org.nz)

## 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*

#### Laptop Operators wanted

We are looking for people to join our Laptop Operators Ministry for the Parish for all Masses.

Full training is provided and we can roster you on to your preferred Mass time.

This role is ideal for young people (intermediate school age and older) who want to help the Parish in this valuable way.

If you have any interest or know of anyone that you think would be perfect to help us, can you please email Fiona, our Parish Secretary on [office@remueracatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@remueracatholic.org.nz) We will be running a training session in the coming weeks.

St Michael's Parish accept donations of non-perishable food and household items which are distributed by **Monte Cecilia** to those families in need. If you would like to donate such items, a large basket is located in the Church Foyer. [www.montececilia.org.nz](http://www.montececilia.org.nz) We work in conjunction with St Michael's Catholic School. Thank you for your support.

#### Abortion Law Reform Bill was given its First Reading on 8 August: The proposed Bill:

\*liberalises late-term abortion. \*has no safeguards to prevent sex-selective abortions. \*allows under 16's to access abortion on-demand. \*has no safeguards to ensure women aren't being coerced. \*has no cooling off period and pre-abortion counselling is not a requirement. \*has no safeguards to prevent abortions on the grounds of disability. \*does not require that abortions be provided by a doctor. \*violates the right to freedom of conscience of medical professionals. \*provides for 'Safe Areas' where freedom of expression would be curtailed.

Further details [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz). **Submission Guides** are available in the Church Foyer - please take one home.

Submissions close on 19 September. Emailed submissions are not accepted. Post or send via the Parliamentary website: [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCAL\\_SCF\\_BILL\\_89814/abortion-legislation-bill](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCAL_SCF_BILL_89814/abortion-legislation-bill)



**Baptism Preparation Course** The next course being facilitated for families to prepare for baptism is beginning in November. Sessions will be held in the presbytery after 10am mass on Sunday 3, 10 and 17 November. Attendance at all 3 sessions is necessary. Please contact the parish office [office@remueracatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@remueracatholic.org.nz) or phone 520-1226 to register. This is the last course for 2019.

**St Michael's** meet for a **pro-life rosary** at 8pm before the Sunday 8:30pm mass. All welcome.

**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](mailto:acotton@maxnet.co.nz)

**The Legion of Mary** has a **Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima** for circulation to Parish homes. If you wish to welcome Our Lady into your home, please contact Carole Kenealy on 524 8422 or 021 152 1724 or Anne Cotton on 520 5335 or 021 644 692.

**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](mailto:carole.kenealy@gmail.com)

**Mercy Spirituality Centre** 104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or [www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz](http://www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz)

- **CHILE: Chilean Culture – Mapuche Spirituality and Spanish Colonisation in Chile** with ANA MARIA DE VOS SANCHEZ. Fri 6 Sept, 7-9pm. Koha/Donation. This evening is for anyone who wants to know about the Mapuches' (indigenous people in Chile) and Chilean culture / religion, music and dance and also, anyone who appreciates history and culture (music, dance, costumes and landscape will be shown).
- **IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: Love is all around us in disguise** with Fr MARK CHAMBERLAIN. Tues 10 Sept, 7-9pm. \$20. A time to allow Ignatian Spirituality to be in our conversation with our present experience, and our appreciation of the living God who enlivens us with love. Time to consider the presence of God in our lives, with reference to aspects of Ignatian Spirituality.

See our website for more details. Bookings essential, email: [info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz](mailto:info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz) to register.