

PARISH of ST. MICHAEL

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Pastor's Column : 4th Sunday of Lent 2020

One of the lesser known books of the OT is the charming, Book of Tobit. It has been a happy hunting ground for artists for depicting the various events of the story. One favourite scene is the healing of Tobit's blindness by his son, Tobias, having been instructed how to do it by the archangel Raphael, who was his companion. (Tobias did not know he was an angel until the end of the book). How does he heal Tobit's blindness? He does so by applying a poultice from a fish bladder and liver. Raphael's name, means, God's healer. Fast forward and we have Jesus applying clay, mixed from his own saliva, as a poultice on another blind man's eyes. To appreciate the significance of this, we need to be aware of the Jewish belief that when God created Adam, he did so from the clay of the earth, the clay being made from God's saliva. Jesus followers, seeing him healing in this way would have understood the underlying significance of his action. Jesus also invokes the very name of God in saying that, "I am the Light of the world." This takes us back to the first part of John's Gospel where we are told the Word is the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Jesus is inaugurating the new creation by this healing of the blind man. Jewish belief, at the time, associated sickness, as punishment for personal or hereditary sin. Jesus disabuses them of this falsehood. The truth is that we are born into a condition of original sinfulness, due to the sin of Adam and Eve, not through our own personal fault. After applying the clay to the blind man's eyes, Jesus tells him to wash in the waters of the pool of Siloam. This associates Jesus' healing with the waters of Baptism, by which we too are healed. So the physical healing, is a living symbol of a deeper healing of spiritual blindness, that is the fruit of the sin of Adam and Eve. The cured man comes to see that Jesus is the Son of God, the Light of the world, God inaugurating the new creation, when we are told, "The man said, "Lord, I believe," and worshipped him.

Just as Raphael and Tobias heal Tobit's blindness, by means of a fish, so we too are healed of our blindness by the Light of the World, enacting the new creation by Jesus' saliva making clay, by ICHTHUS, the early Christian symbol for Jesus, the acrostic word in Greek for fish. Jesus, Son of God, Saviour (I-esous, Ch-ristos, Th-eou Hy-ios, S-oter).

Fr Tony Dunn

22nd March 2020

Parish of St. Michael, Remuera

6 Beatrice Road, Remuera, 1050

Phone: 09 520 1226

office@remueracatholic.org.nz

www.remueracatholic.org.nz

Parish Priest: Father Tony Dunn

frtonydunn@gmail.com (021 954 292)

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,

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7am

Thursday 7am and 9:15am (School Mass)

Saturday 8am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

After Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri

7am Mass

Anointing of the Sick:

First Friday of each month 11am

Reconciliation / Confession:

Half hour before Mass on Saturday 5pm,

Sunday 8am, 10am, 8.30pm

Saturday 8:30am or by appointment

READINGS THIS SUNDAY

1. Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

2. Ephesians 5:8-14

Arise! Shine!

For your light has come! Isaiah 60:1



What would be a good image of light to use to depict that Jesus is the Light of our Way?



Available in the Church Porch
\$4 in the papers box please

Caring Foundation Annual Grants - The foundation is now receiving grant applications from social service agencies and charities throughout the Auckland diocese who work to support and strengthen families and communities. Applications close on 10th of April, 2020. For more information and to download the application form, please visit our website: www.caringfoundation.org.nz. Find out how your gift to the Catholic Caring Foundation is supporting families and communities in need throughout our diocese, by reading our latest newsletter. Make a difference to our community by gifting to the foundation. Visit our website: www.caringfoundation.org.nz

Training course for Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants at Auckland Hospital. If you are interested, please contact Robert Burley, Chaplaincy Assistant Training administrator on email aucklandhospitalchaplancy@gmail.com See Church Noticeboard

Vacancy: Grounds-person for St Francis Retreat Centre. 20-30 hours per week position depending on the successful applicant's availability. For a full job description and application form: email: finance@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz Telephone: (09) 625 6651 Write: 50 Hillsborough Road, Auckland 1042. Applications close 20 March 2020. See Poster on Church Noticeboard

Maintenance/grounds person required. St Benedict's Church requires a maintenance worker for approx.8-10 hours per week with some flexibility of hours/days. Position involves small repair jobs for the church or related properties, liaising with trades people as required, keeping grounds, gardens and church tidy, and other small jobs as required. Please apply in writing to Monsignor Paul Farmer, 1 St Benedict's Street, Newton, Auckland 1010 or by email at office@stbenedictsaukland.org.nz

MARRIED COUPLES: Revitalise and enrich your intimacy, love and romance in your marriage. Attend the *non-residential* MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - 16-17 May at INZIDE Offices Takapuna.

BOOK NOW! - Ph 0800-362686 or Christine & David Sloan 372-3581 or email: david.christinesloan@gmail.com.



Scholarship Medical Students - The Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship - If you are a 4th or 5th year medical student in 2020, are an active Catholic and normally reside within the Auckland Diocese you may be eligible for the Walter Francis Darby Trust Scholarship. For more information contact Catherine Ryan, Vicar for Education, Catholic Diocese of Auckland. Phone (09) 360 3057 or email CatherineR@cda.org.nz

Mercy Spirituality Centre @ 104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **LENT SERIES: Journey of the Cross** with ANNE WARREN chf & CATHRYN WILES-PICKARD rsm. Friday's 10.30am-12.30pm, 27 Mar & 3 Apr. \$15 each. Incl. morning tea. Our Lenten Series will provide an opportunity to reflect on the cross through music, Scripture, reflection, prayer and times of silence.
- **WEEKEND RETREAT Homecoming: Being Present to yourself, your family & God** with EAMON BUTLER. Fri 27 Mar, 7pm to Sun 29 Mar, 12.30pm. non-residential \$160 incl. meals on Sat
- **RETREAT DAY: Recycling our Rubbish** with JOY COWLEY & Fr JOHN O'CONNOR Sat 4 Apr, 9.30am-4pm \$75 incl. lunch
- **ENNEAGRAM Unit 1** with MARIE CORBETT Fri 1 May, 6.30-9pm, Sat 2 May, 9am-4.30pm & Sun 3 May, 9am-4pm \$200 (a \$50 non-refundable deposit is required at time of booking)

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

We remember those who have recently died:

Bernard Twomey

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Joseph Hong

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

Nell Graham, Eileen Martin, Jenny Hart, Tony Vela, Francine Morais, Lunining Gerobin Sarmiento, Bronwen Hughes, Fr Justin Taylor sm, Br Gerard Mahony

What Bishop Pat would like you to know

We need to:

Take the COVID - 19 virus pandemic seriously

BUT do not panic

Put our trust in our loving God

AND take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of the virus

We can:

Acknowledge struggle & confusion, admit it to God, ourselves, others

Pray

Practice good hygiene, follow the guidance of government health officials

Look out for each other

Visit the housebound

Ring the self isolated

Encourage and support all.



For further information and resources
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/resources/>

ROSTER	Fourth Sunday of Lent 21st and 22nd March 2020		Fifth Sunday of Lent 28th and 29th March 2020	
	Ministers of Holy Communion			
Sat 5pm	Rolinda D'Souza (G), Philomena Pinto (P), John Rooney, Moira Rooney, Shenali Fernando	Francisco Byun (G), Issa Ilo-Cabiling (P), Josephine Hazel-Esguerra, Ant Martin, Krystal Turner		
Sun 8am	Eva Shorayi (G), Jane Penney (P), Andrew Patel, Judy Aldridge, Salivo Duarte	Frances Hay-MacKenzie (G), Ann Shaw (P), Michael Franklin, August Nicol, Lianne Lyons		
Sun 10am	Reuben Katigbak (G), Maricel D'Souza (P), Terisa Cordtz, Julie-Ann Eggermont, Jennifer Frost	Rob Fonseca-Ensor (G), Anthony Segedin (P), Sara-Jayne Kingston, Phil Porteous, Jerome Anthony		
Proclaimers of the Word				
	1. Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13	2. Ephesians 5:8-14	1. Ezekiel 37:12-14	2. Romans 8:8-11
Sat 5pm	Viki Cullen, Gay Barton (PoF)	Zac Cabiling, Issa Ilo-Cabiling (PoF)		
Sun 8am	Catherine Husheer, Simon Glass (PoF)	Eileen Piper-Robinson, Clare Wade (PoF)		
Sun 10am	Margaret-Mary Farrell, Sue d'Young (PoF)	Michael Pender, Cara Fonseca-Ensor (PoF)		
Collectors				
Sat 5pm	Birgita Muller	Ant Martin		
Sun 8am	Tom Piggin, Yvonne MacMillan	Tom Maloney, Ernie Cavanagh		
Sun 10am	Denise Valerio	Fitzmaurice Family		
	Counters: Eva Shorayi	Counters: Heather Jayamanne & Family		
Laptop Operators				
Sat 5pm	John Britto	John Trenwith		
Sun 8am	Bernard Kendall	Kerry McKewen		
Sun 10am	Yelena Cordtz	Benedict Bayliss		
Altar Servers				
Sat 5pm	Destiny Jayamanne, Hans Jayamanne, Barry Quinico	Francine Morais, Ben Morais, Samuel Wong		
Sun 8am	Keira Croad, Jacob Croad	Patrick Tighe-Umbers, Simon Tighe-Umbers		
Sun 10am	Liam Houghton, Isaac Houghton, Aaron D'Souza	Jonathan Luxford, Gian Pollaruste, Micayla-Jane Elika		
Sanctuary Care				
	Cecilia Ruiz-Acosta & Hilda Tan	Albert & Cynthia Agustin		
Children's Liturgy				
Sun 10am	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy		
Musicians / Cantors				
Sat 5pm	Neil Moraes & Robert Loretz Choir	Cassie Wooler, Edmond Wong		
Sun 8am	James Ioelu	Maria Bullock		
Sun 10am	Tim Gasson, Steve Hughes and Meileen Huang	Matthew Harris, Antonia Brightwell		

NOTICES

Covid-19 Coronavirus & Liturgy – Refer to <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/> for the latest notice regarding the suspension of all masses or see the noticeboard in the church porch.

St. Michael's Mission

*We the Eucharistic community of St Michael's parish,
by the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
are called to witness to the living Jesus.*

Easter Masses – please sign up for Reader of the Word and Eucharist Ministries. The sign-up sheet is in the Church Porch.

You are invited to come and join us on the **Stations of the Cross** journey in the church on Friday's in Lent. We meet at 6.30pm and journey together for about 40-45 minutes. We would love you to join us for children wanting to audition to take part in **Good Friday** (at 10am). We are looking for readers and singers. Please let Fiona (office@remueracatholic.org.nz) know if you are interested by the 6th of March.

Stations of the Cross Cancelled

Meditation Group - Those interested in being part of a newly formed Meditation group in the parish are invited to email or telephone the parish office by 30 March.

Important Notice Regarding Weekend Parking on Remuera Road

11.00am to 3.00pm Saturday and Sunday there is no parking on Remuera Road. This is on the left side of the road heading to Newmarket. If you are attending 10am Sunday mass, we advise not to park on Remuera Road to avoid being towed.

Sacristy Ministry - Fr. Tony would like to hear from parishioners who would join the group of ministers assisting the celebrant at Sunday Mass. Duties involve preparing the hosts, wine, linen and lectionary for the altar before Mass and putting away after Mass. (The role does not include acting as an altar server or as a Minister of Communion). Volunteers will be asked to take their turn at the Sunday Mass they usually attend. This is an important ministry providing a valuable service. It is well within the capability of the majority of adult parishioners, male or female. Please contact Fr. Tony.

Holy Communion Outreach - Parishioners who are unable through age, illness or other good reason to get to Mass are welcome to ask for a minister of Holy Communion to visit them. Those wishing to get the benefit of this ministry, for themselves or someone else, are invited to contact the parish office.

Social Worker Available - Parishioners who feel they may benefit from consultation with a social worker can arrange an appointment to meet with the parish social worker, Annie Summerfield. Annie is a parishioner and a registered social worker with a master's degree from the University of Auckland. There will be no charge to parishioners for Annie's services; she will be working on a voluntary and part-time basis. Those interested should make an appointment with Annie through the parish office. Confidentiality will be strictly maintained at all stages. For further information please contact Fr. Tony.

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 acotton888@gmail.com

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, 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

Baradene College Alumnae A.G.M. - The President, Melanie Watson and committee invite all Alumnae to the 2020 AGM at Baradene College "The Parlour" on Tuesday 7 April 2020 at 6.30pm.

40 Days for Life: Be a sign of hope this Lent and help save lives!

February 26 to April 5 – Monday to Saturday – 7am to 7pm. Please protect mothers and babies through prayer, fasting, and vigil outside the local abortion centre in Mt Eden. Vigil works on a rotating roster of one-hour slots with two to three people needed to cover each hour. A positive, peaceful and fruitful witness to the precious gift of life. You may be her last sign of hope and her first sign of mercy. To find out more and sign up for your prayer hour please visit fii.org.nz/40daysforlife or contact Michelle 027 526 1199 or michelle@fii.org.nz

33 Days Spiritual Journey. Are you called to be a Eucharistic Apostle of Divine Mercy? Consecration to the Divine Mercy on 19 April (Divine Mercy Sunday). Preparation starts 17 March for 33 days until 18 April. \$20 for reading material. Those who previously did the consecration, please prepare for renewal. For details, please contact 02041026838. See Church Noticeboard

Voluntary Position - **Natural Fertility Educator.** We are seeking person(s) or husband & wife couple(s) interested in learning and training to become Natural Fertility Educator(s) to join our Marriage & Family Life Education Team (some funding is available for the training starting in May 2020). This is becoming a highly popular form of Family planning and also helps couples struggling with infertility and we are responding to this need by offering a service. The closing date is fast approaching. Contact Gerry on 09- 3603025 / 021-02247442 or gerrys@cda.org.nz

Voluntary Position - **Marriage Educators.** Have you been married for 5 or more years and passionate about the sacrament of marriage? Would you like to train as Marriage Educators and give back to the community your wisdom and passion for strong marriages? Do you have four hours per month to see couples in your home? If you have answered yes to the above please consider training as Marriage Educators – Training course starts April 2020. Find out more about this voluntary role - contact Gerry on 09- 3603025 / 021-02247442 or gerrys@cda.org.nz

March Joshua Meeting - Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 7.30pm

Speaker: Michael Lobo from ACCR Team

Topic: 'HOW DO I RESPOND TO GOD'S VOICE IN MY LIFE'

Venue: St Josephs Centre, Takapuna

For more information contact: Russell Sobotker Ph 022 034 5678

This is an invitation to all men to fellowship with other men and spend time in prayer. Hope to see you soon.