

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners,

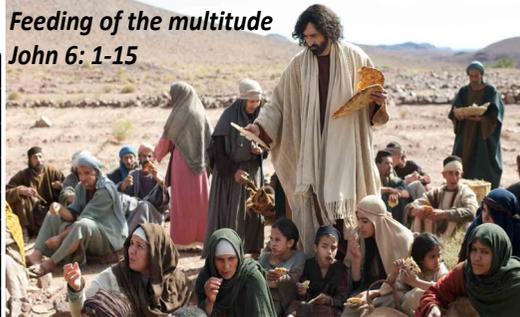
The story of Jesus feeding the five thousand told by John this Sunday is one of those gospel stories that even people of no religious interest can often quote. Indeed, most of us can tell the story in detail, without too much prompting. But one detail might escape us. While all the Gospels include this story, the Gospel of John makes a special point. It includes the role of a small boy, whose five barley loaves and two fish provide Jesus with all that he needs to feed the crowd.

This small detail provides us with an opportunity to explore the story in new and imaginative ways. Certainly, Jesus may have performed a remarkable miracle by simply multiplying the loaves and fish to the point where twelve hampers of scraps were left after everyone had eaten. But something even more remarkable happened. Is it just possible that the young boy was not alone in having brought some food with him? Could it be that many others had had the foresight to come prepared? But it was the little boy who, realising there was a problem, had the generosity and indeed the courage to come forward and offer the little he had to feed the large crowd.

If we turn to the story as it is told by the other evangelists – Matthew, Mark and Luke – we find Jesus telling the disciples themselves to give the people something to eat. Perhaps, then, the reference to the young boy is John’s way of teaching us the same message: namely that it is our job to ensure that the world’s resources are distributed fairly. It is surely clearer to us now than ever before that, because we are Christians called by Christ, we must do all in our power to ensure a just distribution of wealth across our world.

We commend the soul of our parishioner of St Therese, Penitito Falealenu Leafa, who went home to God last week to God's eternal care. May God, the God of mercy, welcome him home. May he rest in eternal peace!

Fr Anthony Tran CSsR



Feeding of the multitude
John 6: 1-15

18-Jul-21	St Anthony	St Thérèse
Envelopes	\$456.70	\$2,028.70
Loose	\$186.00	\$933.10
Totals	\$642.70	\$2,961.80
Aps June 2021	\$1,822.00	\$1,801.00
St. Therese Fundraising Bonus July		\$1,200.00
St Anthony Gold Coin Collection		\$135.50
St Therese Loan as at 30/06/2021		\$250,237.03

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE at St. Anthony • Saturday 9:45am
at St. Thérèse • Saturday 8:45am (on request after Mass)
and with an appointment at anytime.

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Benediction: St. Anthony 9am St. Therese 8am. [Except school holidays for St. Anthony Parish.]

ROSARY at St Anthony • Mom, Wed, Fri & Sunday 8:30am
at St Thérèse • Tuesday, Thursday Winter 8:30am Summer 5:30pm and Saturday 7.20am

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR at St Thérèse • Friday 9am–10:45am First Friday. [Except School Holidays]

BAPTISMS 2nd Saturday of the month, *except January*. **MARRIAGES** require at least **SIX** months notice.

Mangere Catholic Parishes
Pastoral Team

Parish Priest: Anthony Tran, C.Ss.R. ☎0226543680

Assistant Priest : Nathanael Rivandi Narang, C.Ss.R. ☎ 02108154804

Presbytery ☎ 275 3559 Parishes' Office: Parishes' Secretary ☎ 275 5401



The Mangere Catholic



Diocese of Auckland

Bulletin of the Parishes of

St. Anthony St. Thérèse
20 Kirkbride Road 10 Wickman Way

Mangere Bridge Mangere East

www.mangerebridgecatholic.org.nz www.mangereeastcatholic.org.nz

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St Anthony Family Support Trust 0272533537 & 09 2750357

SCHOOLS IN THE PARISHES

St Mary MacKillop Primary Years 1-8 • McNaughton Avenue ☎ 257 1435 ☎ 257 1436
St Joseph's Catholic School Years 0-8 125 Church Street Onehunga ☎ 6368102

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY	26th July.	FRIDAY	30th July
<u>Sts Joachim and Ann, parents of Mary</u>		<u>17th Week of ordinary Time B.</u>	
Ecclesiasticus 44:1,10-15	Psalm 132	Leviticus 23:1,411,15-16,27,34-37	
Matthew 13:16-17		Psalm 80	Matthew 13: 54-58
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.	St. Anthony	Mass 9am.
TUESDAY	27th July.	Therese	Mass 11am.
<u>17th Week of ordinary Time B.</u>		SATURDAY	31st July
Exodus 33:7-11,34:5-9,28	Psalm 103	<u>St. Alphonsus Liguori, B.D. (m)</u>	
Matthew 13:36-43		Isaiah 61:1-3	Psalm 89
St. Therese	Mass 9am.	2 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 9:35-10:1
WEDNESDAY	28th July.	St. Therese	Mass 9am.
<u>17th Week of ordinary Time B.</u>		SUNDAY	1st August.
Exodus 34:1-10,29-35	Psalm 99	NEXT WEEK	
Matthew 13:44-46		(18th Sunday, Year B) Psalter W.2	
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.	Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Psalm 78; Ephe-	
St. Therese	Mass 9am.	sians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35	
THURSDAY	29th July.	<u>Weekend Masses.</u>	
<u>St. Martha (m).</u>		<u>St Anthony : Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm.</u>	
Exodus 40:16-21,34-38	Psalm 84	<u>& Mass Sunday 9am.</u>	
Matthew 13:47-53		<u>St Therese 8am, 10am & 6pm.</u>	
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.		
St. Therese	Mass 9am.		

**CHURCH AND GROUNDS
CLEANING IN BOTH PARISHES.**

St. Anthony's.

Thank you to the youth group for looking after the Church this week. Gretel Toleafoa and family's turn on Saturday 31st of July. Thank you to the volunteers for looking after the Church grounds each week.

St. Therese

Thank you to the Samoan community for looking after the Church grounds this week. 6pm Choir's turn on Saturday the 31st of July. Thank you to the Legion of Mary for looking after the church each week.

BAPTISM AUGUST

Sessions on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th 5:30pm at St. Therese meeting room. Baptism St. Therese Saturday 14th August during the 8am Mass.

You are invited to: WEAVING TOGETHER LITURGY AND LIFE – Liturgy Conference

The Liturgy Conference, Weaving Together Liturgy and Life - *Te raranga ngātahi i ngā ritenga me te oranga* The liturgy of the Church, especially the Mass, is a mystery ever ancient, ever new, and always calling us into a deeper engagement. This is an opportunity for all Catholics to gather, be enriched in our understanding of the Mass, ponder the wisdom of guest speakers, enjoy great company and build new friendships. Come!! Let the deep spirituality of the Catholic Church surround, inspire and fill you. Baradene College of the Sacred Heart. 4.00pm 7th – 6.00pm 9th October. For more information, <https://wuss.org.nz> – registrations now open.

The Crime and Reconciliation

Committee of the Diocese of Auckland's Justice and Peace Commission needs new members. If you have a strong commitment to social justice and are interested in advocating for prisoners to be given the support needed to reintegrate into society, we'd like to hear from you. Contact: Peter Garrick Executive Secretary peterg@cda.org.nz phone 022 1300 730

WEEKDAY MASS.

Weekday Masses will be back to normal on Monday 26th of July.

St. Anthony. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. No Mass on Saturday 31st July.

St. Therese. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am. Friday 11am & Saturday 9am Combined Mass.

**FEAST OF ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI
FOUNDER OF THE CONGREGATION
OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER.**

Combined Mass at St. Therese 9am followed by a cup of tea in the hall. Please be advised that there will be no Mass at St Anthony's on this day.

**ST. MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL
PROPRIETOR'S REPRESENTATIVE
ROLE.**

St. Mary Mackillop school is looking for members to be part of the school Board of Trustees. If you are interested please email: office@marymackillop.school.nz to express your interest in becoming a Proprietor's Representative for ST MMK.

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass

Friday 6th August 7:00pm St Mary's Church, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Young adult event happening August 7th @5pm in the Cathedral. Bishop Michael will be giving a talk on the Transfiguration. Bring a friend.

**Caring Foundation
Annual Appeal – July.**

Please support Bishop Pat's Caring Foundation's Annual Appeal this July. Through your generosity, grants are given to over 60 agencies who care and support the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. If you can support the work of the Foundation, please make your gift in the second collection on Caring Sunday July 25th or visit our website: www.caringfoundation.org.nz

25th July. 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B. (Psalter W.1)

TODAY'S READINGS

2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

The 'Jesus Fish' symbol

We've seen them on car bumper-bars, keychains, lapel pins, and pendants. Users of online discussion boards and chat rooms find innovative ways to employ them in posts. They are the so-called "Jesus Fish", a symbol comprising two intersecting arcs; or, in the case of online chat rooms, formed by the astute use of the "greater than" and "less than" symbols (<>).

The "Jesus Fish" phenomenon purports to be a revival of an early Christian symbol representing Christ. The fish symbol gained early popularity amongst Christians because the Greek word for fish "ICHTHUS" could be used as an acrostic for the proclamation of their faith in "Jesus Christ, Son of God, [and] Saviour" (*Iesous Christos Theou Uios Soter*). Long before the cross, early Christian worshippers used the fish as the public sign of their faith.

Many of these early fish symbols were closely related to the Christian practice of shared meals. So, for example, the second-century "Greek chapel" in the Roman catacombs of Saint Priscilla boasts a fresco depicting the eucharistic table set with a fish and a basket of bread.

This fresco is reminiscent of the scene presented in today's gospel, where Jesus feeds a large crowd of five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish. Like the fresco, the story has clear eucharistic overtones as Jesus blesses, breaks the bread and distributes it in manner reminiscent of the story of the Last Supper. The miracle of loaves echoes the story in today's first reading where Elijah feeds a hundred people by a similarly miraculous division of meagre resources.

Jesus' audience would have been aware of the Elijah story and of the role of Elijah assumed in popular Jewish thinking about the end-time. Hence, Jesus' actions prompt them to identify him as the messianic prophet, the coming of whom was foretold by Malachi, who specifically linked the messiah to the return of Elijah (Malachi 3:23).

In Jewish thought, fish appear in the end-time drama as symbolic of God's blessing on a renewed Israel (Ezekiel 47:9). The prophet Ezekiel predicted that a stream would flow from the temple mount in Jerusalem and would purify the Dead Sea so that fish would teem there. An abundant catch of fish figures strongly in John's post-resurrection story of the risen Jesus appearing to seven of his disciples as they fished the Sea of Tiberius (John 21:1-14). In Luke's Gospel, the risen Jesus eats a piece of broiled fish to demonstrate that he is no mere ghost (Luke 24:42).

Pulling all these threads together, one can see how easily the "Jesus Fish" came to be adopted as an early symbol for Christian faith. For us too, the presence of the fish in the gospel story of the miracle of the loaves reminds us that each time we gather as a eucharistic community to ponder the Word and break bread we are publicly witnessing to our faith that Jesus is the "Son of God" and "saviour" of the world.

Ian J Elmer
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