

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners,

It was during his imprisonment at Auschwitz that Viktor Frankl, Jewish psychiatrist, made a discovery. He noticed that all the prisoners who had something to live for, who could focus on some meaning in their lives, were far more likely to survive the horrifying ordeal than others. In his own case, he was determined to survive so that he would be reunited with his wife. After the war, he found out that she had died; but his tremendous desire had enabled him to survive.

This is precisely what Paul is talking about in his letter to the Christians at Ephesus. Apparently, there had been some backsliding after their conversion. He warns them to give up what he calls “the aimless kind of life that pagans live”. The pagans were concerned only with good living, the best food and drink, expensive clothes, gambling and frequenting the games. It could be summed up in the well-known saying: “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die”. Such people had no real purpose or goal in life. They thought only of the present moment.

Paul tells the Christians to get beyond such a drifting, pointless existence. It could lead only to ruin. Paul could be speaking to us now. There are so many people in today’s world who have no real goal or purpose apart from having a good time. The whole environment encourages that sort of aimless life. Jesus has promised us: “He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst”. Jesus is the only meaning of our lives.

Fr Anthony Tran CSsR

25-Jul-21	St Anthony	St Thérèse
Envelopes	\$1,269.30	\$1,790.90
Loose	\$312.50	\$803.10
Totals	\$1,581.80	\$2,594.00
Aps June 2021	\$1,822.00	\$1,801.00
St. Therese Fundraising Bonus July		\$1,200.00
St Anthony Gold Coin Collection		\$256.30
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

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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

Parish Office 10 Wickman Way • Mangere East • ☎ 275 5401 • ☎ 275 5390
PO Box 5

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Presbytery • 20 Kirkbride Road • Mangere Bridge • ☎ 2753559

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	2nd August.	FRIDAY	6th August
<u>18th Week of ordinary Time B.</u>		<u>The Transfiguration of the Lord (f).</u>	
Numbers 11: 4-15	Psalm 81	Daniel 7:9-10,13-14	Psalm 97
Matthew 14:13-21		2 Peter 1:16-19	Luke 9:28-36
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.	St. Anthony	Mass 9am.
		Therese	Mass 11am.
TUESDAY	3rd August.	SATURDAY	7th August
<u>St. Dominic, priest (m).</u>		<u>18th Week of ordinary Time B.</u>	
Numbers 12:1-13	Psalm 51	Deuteronomy 6:4-13	Psalm 18
Matthew 14:22-36		Matthew 17: 14-20	
St. Therese	Mass 9am.	St. Anthony	Mass 9am.
		St. Therese	Mass 8am.
WEDNESDAY	4th August.	SUNDAY	8th August.
<u>St. John Vianney, priest (m).</u>		NEXT WEEK	
Numbers 13: 1-2,25-14:1,26-29,34-35	Matthew 15:21-28	(19th Sunday, Year B) Psalter W.3	
Psalm 106		1King 19:4-8; Psalm 34; Ephesians 4: 30	
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.	-5:2; John 6:41-51	
St. Therese	Mass 9am.	<u>Weekend Masses.</u>	
THURSDAY	5th August.	<u>St Anthony : Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm.</u>	
<u>18th Week of ordinary Time B.</u>		<u>& Mass Sunday 9am.</u>	
Numbers 20:1-13	Psalm 95	<u>St Therese 8am, 10am & 6pm.</u>	
Matthew 16:13-23			
St. Anthony	Mass 9am.		
St. Therese	Mass 9am.		

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

St. Anthony's.

Thank you to Gretel Toleafoa and family for looking after the Church this week. Divine Mercy and the Legion of Mary prayer group's turn on Saturday 7th of August. Thank you to the volunteers for looking after the Church grounds each week.

St. Therese

Thank you to the 6pm choir for looking after the Church grounds this week. Other ethnic communities' turn on Saturday the 7th of August. 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.

PARISHES YOUTH GROUP MASS.

The parishes combine youth group will be leading the 10am mass on Sunday the 22nd of August at St. Therese Parish.

MULTICULTURAL MASS.

The multicultural Mass will be on the 5th Sunday, 29th of August at St Anthony 9am and St. Therese 10am.

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.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH.

Prayer for Vocations Evenings.

Every 3rd Friday of the month @ St Therese Parish, Mangere **When:** Friday 20th August **Where:** St Therese Parish Church **Leading:** Tongan Community **Start:** 7pm. Quest Speaker Fr Consedine Fuiava Toleafoa & Rev: Dr Tupouniua Toutalolepo Totoe. **Followed by:** Adoration & Benediction

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 re-integrate into society, we'd like to hear from you. Contact: Peter Garrick Executive Secretary peterg@cda.org.nz phone 022 1300 730

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.

ENCOUNTER - Young adult event

In the month of August 7th @5pm in the Cathedral. Bishop Michael will be giving a talk on the Transfiguration. Bring a friend.

Volunteer applications today.

Volunteers will complete an expression of interest using a form accessible from the Festival page of the CDA website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/festival/>. We all know some people who love to volunteer and are good in roles that match their gifts. Please encourage those people to register.

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Commission for Ecumenism 2021 Talk Series Promoting Christian Unity invites you to a public lecture by Rev. Dr. Joseph Zachariah, ecumenical scholar, of the Syrian Orthodox Church, an Ecumenical response on the topic of Intercommunion a search for the parameters for Eucharistic Communion 7:00PM at St Peter's Syrian Orthodox Church 15 Culperry Road, Glendene. Referments.

1st August. 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B.

(Psalter W.2)

TODAY'S READINGS : Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

I am that bread, says Jesus

In today's gospel, the people ask Jesus three questions and each time his response suggests, think again.

The first question comes after the multiplication of the loaves and fishes on the other side of the sea and they're wondering where is he? On locating him they ask, 'When did you get here?' Jesus' answer is puzzling: you've seen the signs of God's love he says, but haven't understood their meaning and can only see that you've had plenty to eat! He goes on to contrast working for what is here today, gone tomorrow and what sustains you forever. It's this I'm offering you, he says, through the Father.

We'd prefer it if Jesus would stick to the script, but he doesn't. He doesn't answer to our expectations. Instead, he leads his listeners into what seems like uncharted territory and, like the Israelites in the first reading, we may begin to yearn for the certainties back in Egypt, when enslaved, but at least we weren't hungry. But then, that's what the spiritual revolution referred to in today's second reading is all about, our secure selves being overturned by what Jesus says, our minds opening up.

This leads to the second question: what must we do in order to do what God wants? Again, he wrong-foots them when he responds: Believe in the one he sent. They sort of get what he's saying and respond by thinking of him in the time-honoured way and ask, can you show us a sign like the manna given by Moses in the desert, so we might believe in you? And a third time he brings them undone. It's not about me, or Moses, he responds, but about my Father who gives you true bread from heaven, for the world's sake.

When they say give us that bread always, Jesus replies, I am that bread. It's a breathtaking statement, a new Passover, a new revelation of God. We've gone from loaves and fishes and manna in the desert to this pledge of God's love, where our hunger and our eating is the way into Jesus, into God. In eating this bread 'we receive what we are and become what we receive.'

We're learning to receive what God gives us and learning that we can't program it, or earn it in some way, but have only to receive it. It's so simple we don't quite get it and we're back to their questions and having to re-think our lives.

It all comes down to this simple act of eating. Food and eating and bodies, now transformed, so we might be bread for others. Jesus is the sign of God's unending love for us made real in his broken body, the Church. To experience something of this reality is to believe in him who was sent. Is he the one we have been looking for? Come and eat.

Damian Coleridge
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