



Sunday 15th November 2020

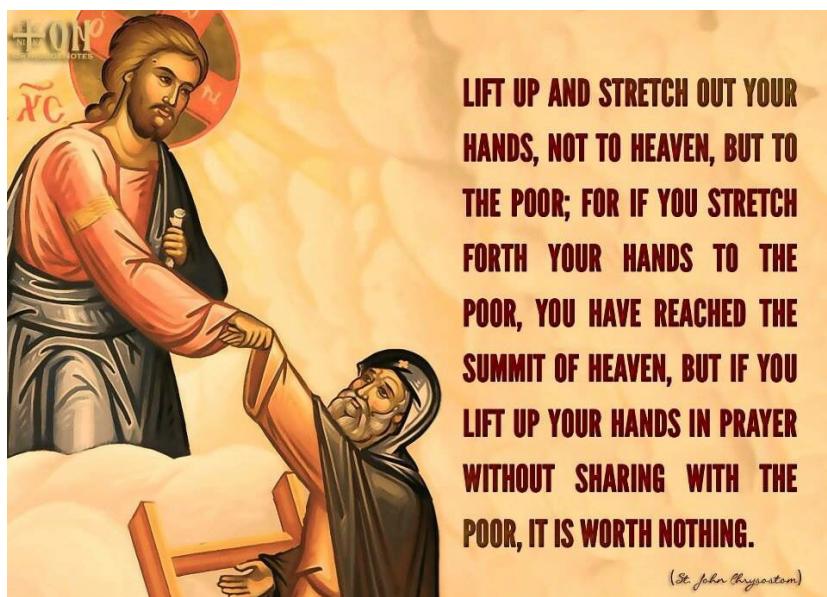
33rd Sunday Ordinary Time - Year A

Stretch forth your hand to the poor

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time is the Fourth World Day of the Poor. Each person, even the poorest and most contemptible, is made in the image of God. Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of it, is a condition for a fully human life. The decision to care for the poor, for their many different needs, cannot be conditioned by the time available or by private interests, or by impersonal pastoral or social projects. The power of God's grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first.

Keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult, but more necessary than ever. A hand held out is a sign; a sign that immediately speaks of closeness, solidarity and love. In these months, when the whole world was prey to a virus that brought pain and death, despair and bewilderment, how many outstretched hands have we seen!

- Sirach 7:32



This pandemic arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared, sparking a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness. Yet hands never stopped reaching out to the poor. This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help. The present experience has challenged many of our assumptions.

We feel poorer and less self-sufficient because we have come to sense our limitations and the restriction of our freedom. The loss of employment, and of opportunities to be close to our loved ones and our regular acquaintances, suddenly opened our eyes to horizons that we had long since taken for granted. In the silence of our homes, we rediscovered the importance of simplicity and of keeping our eyes fixed on the essentials. We came to realize how much we need a new sense of fraternity, for mutual help and esteem. In a word, until we revive our sense of responsibility for our neighbour and for every person, grave economic, financial and political crises will continue.

At the same time, the command: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" challenges the attitude of those who prefer to keep their hands in their pockets and to remain unmoved by situations of poverty in which they are often complicit. Indifference and cynicism are their daily food. What a difference from the generous hands we have described! The "end" of all our actions can only be love. This is the ultimate goal of our journey, and nothing should distract us from it. This love is one of sharing, dedication and service, born of the realization that we were first loved and awakened to love. We see this in the way children greet their mother's smile and feel loved simply by virtue of being alive. Even a smile that we can share with the poor is a source of love and a way of spreading love. An outstretched hand, then, can always be enriched by the smile of those who quietly and unassumingly offer to help, inspired only by the joy of living as one of Christ's disciples.

"The excluded are still waiting... Almost without being aware of it, we end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own" (Evangelii Gaudium, 54).

~ Pope Francis



Congratulations!

To Father Michael Wooller who has reached his 50th Jubilee as a Marist Priest. He will be staying here next weekend (November 20th - 22nd) and will lead the Eucharist at the 10am Mass that Sunday, where we will congratulate him on his achievement and thank him for his service to Manurewa. All are invited to gather in the hall for morning tea afterwards.

The Parable of the Talents

'Talent' in this context refers to a measure of money, approximately 6,000 Denari, which was the equivalent of 6,000 days worth of wages. The story speaks of a master who, before leaving to travel, entrusted his property to the care of three servants. The amount he gave to each depended on their skill. One received five talents, one three, and the last received a single talent. Upon returning from travel, the master asked for the return of his property. The first two servants explained that they had put the master's talents to work and doubled the value of which they were entrusted. The third however, returned the single talent he was entrusted, as he had buried his talent in the ground rather than putting it to work, "I was afraid, and hid thy talent in the earth".

The Master was displeased and punished him, saying, "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance."



For our Parishioners

RECENTLY DECEASED

Violet Gibbs, Anna Taefau (Mother of Ulea Pene), Anefe Bourke (Ane), Richard Stewart, Matt Rogers

THE SICK

Bill Bayden-Brown, Ponifasio Ponifasio, Semeli Tuiatua, Nestor Algarico (Washington USA), Teofilo Iakopo, Lagi Vaike, Alan Taylor, Tahaafe Emilio, Pei Isa'ako Baice, Tuioti Fu'a Baice Pauline Maxwell, Valda, Rosie, Fotulafai Siliva Chungsum, Joan Dickens, Stephanie Hilliar, Maureen Foster, Barry Fraei, Kamalijit Dsor, Nurani Khan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Rosalynn Clark, Henry O'Neil, David Ifopo, Fancis Gallego, Olivia del Valle, Su'a Pese, Peter Dickens, Marie Dephoff, Alice McElhinney, Kevin Nelson, Nadia Kourkgy, Naomi Daculan, Jean Lepper, Amelia Kaihea, Janette Vinall, George Koteka, Steve Meredith, Frances Te Amo, Uera Redfern, Molly Winkley, John Bland, Chanele, Broughton, Ron Scholten, Stella Sequeira, Lily Fernandes, John Coombe, Philip Coombe, Brian & Nadene Fahey, Luis Cabral, Raj Kaur, Claudia Medeiros

SUNDAY READINGS

- YEAR A

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

15th November 2020

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

Feast of Christ the King

22nd November 2020

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Psalms 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25:31-46

A Different Take on the Gospel

The Jewish word for Glory is 'Kabod', and it is also the word for Heavy. Heavy is a word associated with a Talent – a large, weighty sum of wealth. Talent leads us to mercy. The ancient Jewish reader would have immediately made the connection between the Parable of the Talents and heaviness: a talent was weighty, and five talents was massively heavy. Heaviness would have brought to mind the heaviest weight of all, which was the '*kabod of Yahweh*'. The basic sense of the Hebrew word is heaviness, gravitas. And is associated with giving glory to god. And this '*kabod of Yahweh*' was to be found in the Jerusalem Temple, resting upon the mercy seat within the Holy of Holies. Therefore, what was heaviest – most glorious – of all was the mercy of God, which abided in infinite, inexhaustible abundance in the Holy Temple.

"He ain't heavy, he's my brother"

*The road is long, with many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where, who knows where
But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother*

*So on we go, his welfare is of my concern
No burden is he to bear, we'll get there*

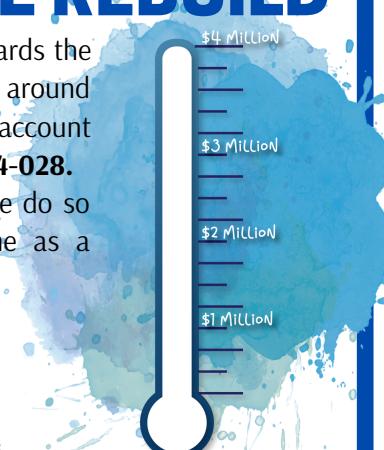
*For I know, he would not encumber me
He ain't heavy, he's my brother*

~ The Hollies

We can read Jesus' parable with fresh eyes. The talents given to the three servants are not so much monetary gifts or personal capacities; they are a share in the mercy of God, a participation in the weightiness of the divine love. But since mercy is always directed to the other, these 'talents' are designed to be shared. In point of fact, they will increase precisely in the measure that they are given away. The problem with the timid servant who buried his talent is not that he was an ineffective venture capitalist but that he fundamentally misunderstood the nature of what he had been given. The divine mercy – received as a pure gift – is meant to be given to others as a pure gift. Buried in the ground, that is to say, hugged tightly to oneself as one's own possession, such a talent necessarily fades. And this is why the master's seemingly harsh words should not be read as the punishment of an angry God but as an expression of spiritual physics: the divine mercy will grow in you only as much as you give it to others.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE REBUILD

We have already started receiving generous donations towards the new Church building fund - thank you! The total cost will be around \$12 million. Our goal is \$4 million+. We've set up a separate account just for donations to the Church building: **02-0100-0120974-028**. If you would like to contribute via Internet banking, please do so using the above account number, and leave your name as a reference. Thank you for your generosity.



Notices

PARISH DATABASE UPDATE & call for volunteers

We're updating our Parish roll! This means you'll be getting an email or a call (or both) within the next few months and we'll ask you for some details. Please bear with us as we migrate to our new database software system - this process is a lengthy one, but once completed, communication throughout the Parish will be much easier and more efficient. We're also calling for volunteers who might like to assist in this task: making phone calls to Parishioners and/or doing data entry. If this sounds like you, please contact the parish office, 09 266 5826.



From our Parish Team

Last week we introduced you to our St Anne's Parish Pastoral Council... This week, meet the Parish Liturgy Committee!

Philip Cortesi

Chairperson

Tala Tafu

Ana Baice

Bernadette Paulse

Daniella Rudolph

Josephine Bose-Fiso

Father Brian

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday - 5.30pm

Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am, 7.00pm

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Is held on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of every month at **5.30pm** in the Lounge.

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

If you would like your child enrolled at St Anne's Catholic School, please make an appointment by phoning the **parish office**, **09 266 5826**.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Or do you know someone who is interested in our Catholic Faith?

RCIA is for you.

Contact Therese Lautua
021 2636812

PARISH OFFICE CONTACT INFO

Phone: 09 266 5826

stannes@manurewacatholica.org.nz

manurewacatholic.org.nz

f St. Anne's Catholic Church Manurewa

@stannesparishmanurewa

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER March 5th 2021

World Day of Prayer is run by an International Women's organisation and takes place on the first Friday of March every year. Next year, the date for this special day will be **March 5th**, and will be held at St Anne's Manurewa.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GIVING 2020 for women in prison

A big thank you to the people of St Anne's parish. With your generous support we have a grand total of \$3740.20. This is wonderful. Awesome thanks too, to those who collected after each of the Masses over the last 4 weeks. If you have been unable to contribute and would like to, a donation can still be made up until the 30th of November via **Internet banking: account # 12-3083-0204597-00**. Please reference as Donation PCG. God bless, Sr Margaret Martin.

CATHOLIC READING AND NEWS for Sale

The Marist Messenger magazine (\$6.00) and the NZ Catholic paper (\$4.00) are available for purchase from the **parish office**.

CAKE STALL BUILDING FUNDRAISER

The Pencione group will be running a cake stall after the **8am and 10am Masses on Sunday November 22nd**, with all proceeds going towards the St Anne's Parish Building fund. Bring some change to contribute to the cause and enjoy some delicious, sweet treats!

TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Prayer Group

Is held in the lounge every **Monday evening at 7.30pm**. Contact **Serena** for more information, **2696353**.

UPCOMING MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

We are planning one hour workshops for all people who fulfil the ministries of Sacristans, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Sacristans: Saturday March 6th: 10.00am -11.00am

Lectors: Saturday March 6th: 1.00 - 2.00pm

Ministers of Holy Communion: Saturday March 13th: 1.00 - 2.00pm

All those involved in these ministries are expected to attend. From attendance at these workshops, decisions will be made about your on-going commitment to your rostered ministry. We would also like to welcome new people who would like to be involved in any of these ministries. If you have any questions about any of these workshops, please contact **Philip Cortesi** on **021 632944 OR 266 4079**.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING SESSIONS

Saturday December 5th: 11.00 - 12.00pm

Saturday December 19th: 11.00 - 12.00pm

All altar servers are expected to attend. Please contact **Ana Baice, 021 480478**, if you require further information.

ST ANNE'S MUSICIANS GATHERING

Saturday February 21st, 11.00 - 12.00pm, followed by pizzas for lunch. The purpose of this gathering is to thank all our musicians for the great commitment you make to our parish worship. We would also like to talk about the principles and processes of music planning and have an open discussion with you all as we consider our future planning.

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME 2021 Organisation Needed

We urgently need people to help in the Baptismal programme for next year. Could you see yourself committing to helping out in this area once every three months for three years? That amounts to about 2 ½ sessions per year. We will offer training and expertise for you in this very important ministry. Contact the **parish office** on **09 266 5826**.

CALL FOR ST ANNE'S HELPERS in various areas

St Anne's needs a new team of people who can use their gifts to be collectors of photos of our Parishioners and of events that occur within the Parish. We also want to put together a tech team of people who can operate a live stream of each of the Sunday Masses for people who are unable to attend Mass in person. Get in touch with the **parish office, 09 266 5826**.

HELP AT ADVENT MASSES

This is a call for any community groups who would like to contribute to an evening in Advent on Friday's night. Perhaps to do a reflection, host half an hour of silence or prayer, or sing a hymn? Contact **Father Brian** at **bprend@orcon.net.nz**.

OTHER NOTICES:

- Communion under both kinds will start at the Christmas Masses.
- There will be a Christmas Eve mass under the Canopy at 7.00pm on December 24th.
- You're invited to the Ordination to Priesthood of a Marist confrere, Ben D'Souza, at Sacred Heart Church, Vermont St at 11am on Saturday November 26th.

ALTAR SERVER, COMMENTATOR, LECTOR AND SPECIAL MINISTER ROSTER

WEEKEND OF NOV 21 st	21 st – 5.30pm	22 nd – 8.00am	22 nd – 10.00am	22 nd – 7.00pm
Altar Server 1	Monica Brzowski	Aayah Al-Abri	Charmara Tatatri	Anne Marie Gabitan
Altar Server 2	Rachel Brzowski	Kevin Fauma	Jade Tatari	Jian Gabitan
Altar Server 3	Claire Brzowski	Wayne Louis Henry	Akapa Tatari	Chim Chim Paz
Commentator	Sandra Franich	Robert Lamont	Theresa Tulafono	John Stepphen Paz*
Lector 1	Aryan Pereira-Dsor*	Lava Nofo'akifolau	Margaret Kiely	Flordelis Tanyag
Lector 2	Vivian Pereira*	Susana Nofo'akifolau	Des Kiely	Christian Tekanene
SP Minister	Imakulata Tulilo	Frances Ane	Anna Kiely	Jun Gabitan
SP Minister	Francella Tulilo*	Sarah Beacom	Therese Lautua*	Yvonne Gabitan
SP Minister	Maniapoto Vuna	Soane Nofo'akifolau	Luisa Otineru	Paulina Ifopo
SP Minister	Josephine Bose-Fiso	Paul Burns	Michael Pereira	Tupou Ilalio
SP Minister	Lourdes Collins	Grace Dodson	Virginia Poloie	Cathy Jenkins
SP Minister	Philip Cortesi*	Sesilia Eti	Natui Sala Pesa	Christopher King*
SP Minister	Hazel Dela Cruz	Liz Hilliar	Serena Rouse	Carina King*
SP Minister	Jose Dela Cruz	Junior Parakoti	Epiphany Sanele	Mafi Kiola
SP Minister	Lorna Gayatin	Tiresa Parakoti*	Sarah Semisi	Shona Longley
		Maimai Sirilan	Francis Stickney	
		Bong Sirilan	Antoinette Stickney	
			Faulili Tafu	
			Tala Tafu	