

HOLY FAMILY PARISH TIMARU

St Thomas the Apostle Church
12 Mountain View Road
Timaru



Sacred Heart Basilica
7 Craigie Avenue
Timaru

4th Sunday in Lent

22 March 2020

Today's Readings

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as "*Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday," expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings both remind us that it is God who gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instruct us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

First Reading (1 Sam 16:1.6-7,10-13).

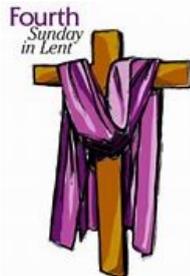
God chose David, the least of Jesse's sons, to be king of Israel. While people look at appearances, God looks at the heart.

Second Reading (Eph 5:6-14).

Paul tells the Ephesians that now that Christ has enlightened them, they must adopt a lifestyle in keeping with their new state.

Gospel (John 4:5-42)

Jesus, the light of the world, not only gives sight to the physically blind, but the light of faith to the spiritually.



Obstacles and triumphs

History is replete with stories of people who triumphed over seemingly insurmountable disadvantages and challenges. Homer was blind, as was John Milton, but both men achieved unparalleled status as poets.

Beethoven was deaf when he composed his Ninth Symphony, so deaf that when his work was first performed, he could not hear a note of the magnificent ode, "Joy, thou heavenly spark of Godhead," with which the symphony concludes. Thomas Edison, who lost his hearing at the age of eight went on to invent over 100 useful devices, including the phonograph and moving pictures. Alexander the Great and Alexander Pope suffered skeletal deformities as did Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott, Lord Byron, Epictetus and Franklin Roosevelt. Francis Mouthelon, a man with no hands was awarded first prize by the French society of artists for the most excellent painting of 1875. Helen Keller, one of the world's most renowned women, was blind, deaf and mute from early childhood, yet she became a teacher, author and educator. Anne Sullivan, Keller's teacher and companion for 49 years was half-blind at birth, orphaned, and institutionalized as a young girl. Nevertheless, she devoted her life to the care of the blind. When Sullivan became totally blind as an adult, Keller took on the role of teacher, helping her devoted friend to overcome her inability to see. George Frederick Handel, the great musician suffered several setbacks. He lost his health and his right side was paralyzed. When he lost his money, his creditors threatened to imprison him. In the throes of his darkest days, Handel composed his finest work, *The Hallelujah Chorus*, which is part of his *Messiah*, citing his Faith in God as the only thing that sustained him. Triumphs like these bolster the human spirit with the knowledge that handicaps, and hardships need not be incapacitating; indeed, such experiences can prove to be the impetus for achieving greatness. The Lenten season challenges us to reflect on those obstacles, which tend to stunt our *spiritual* development. Let us remember that, like the people mentioned above and like the blind man in today's Gospel, we are also capable of overcoming whatever stands between us and the wholeness to which God calls us.

OUR PRIESTS

Parish Priest:

Fr Christopher Friel Mobile 021 474308
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Do Nguyen: Mobile 021 2171604
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Residence:

Presbytery, 7 Craigie Avenue, Timaru
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PARISH OFFICE:

St Thomas the Apostle Church
 12 Mountain View Road, Timaru

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 8.30am—12.00pm
 Phone: 686 2010

Parish Secretary: Helen Simmons

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Parish Financial Assistant: Mike Batchelor

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Pastoral Assistant: Pauline Berry

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Chairperson Parish Council

Gary Shand

Chairperson Finance & Property Committee

Jim Anderson

Sacred Heart Primary School Principal

David Armstrong Phone: 688 8188

St Joseph's Primary School Principal

Carmel Brosnahan-Pye Phone: 688 1376

Roncalli College Principal

Chris Comeau Phone: 688 6003

New Parishioners Holy Family Parish

A warm welcome is offered to you. Make yourself known to one of the priests, or fill out this slip and place it in the collection basket or post to: Holy Family Parish, 12 Mountain View Road, Timaru.

Name (Mr/Mrs)

Address:

Phone

Email Address

Require:

Planned Giving envelopes:

Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, **Yes/No**

Automatic Payments: **Yes/No**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH:

- **The Parish website** is www.facebook.com/groups/holyfamilytim/ or YouTube and type in Holy Family Parish Timaru. Sunday Mass from our Parish will be uploaded each Saturday by 8.00pm.
- In order to keep up to date with our current unusual circumstances please leave your email address and name and phone details on our Parish email. parishoffice@holyfamilytimaru.org.nz This will ensure continue to receive the parish bulletin and other relevant and important information.
- Stations of the Cross cancelled.
- To help us sanctify our day and to keep walking in the liturgical rhythm of the Church, the Magnificat Company in the USA are honoured to make their online version of MAGNIFICAT temporarily available to everyone for free. Please help us spread this message and **share this email and link:** www.magnificat.com/free with as many people as you can. Fr Chris swears by the book!
- You are welcome to take a free copy of the Common Good available in the church foyer.
- It is great to see the Planned Giving Envelopes going so quickly. If yours is not there please contact the office
- After praying the Lamb of God prayer we are asked to kneel. Because St Thomas' Church does not have kneelers this is problematic! Sitting is not an option. In future, for those who cannot kneel, after praying the Lamb of God, could I please ask you to remain standing. When the priest prays, "Behold the Lamb of God," something extraordinary is happening - and I don't believe a sitting posture is appropriate. Do you?

MASS TIME TABLE THIS WEEK:

ALL MASSES CANCELLED

The Church will remain open as usual

DIARY:
Sunday 22 March
CANCELLED: MOVIE NIGHT
Monday 23 March
EUCHRE in St Thomas' Lounge 1.30pm.
ROSARY 4.00pm in St Thomas' Church.
MEN'S GROUP meet in St Thomas' Lounge 7.30pm.
Tuesday 24 March
MAINLY MUSIC 9.30am in St Thomas' Lounge. All pre-schoolers and parents welcome to this fun time.
ST VINCENT DE PAUL St Joseph's Conference meet in St Thomas' at 7.00pm
EUCHRE will be held at 87 North Street, 1.30pm, Afternoon tea and raffles. All players welcome.
Wednesday 25 March
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Craft afternoon is cancelled.
Thursday 26 March
FINANCE COMMITTEE meet 5.15pm In Presbytery.
PARISH COUNCIL meet in Presbytery at 7.30pm.
Friday 27 March
PRAYER GROUP meet in St Thomas' at 10.00am.

A prayer for our times

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies, look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief, deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from all evil. We ask this of You who with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever.
 Amen.

VOICE FOR LIFE:

All parishioners who want to protect the 'pre-born' child are invited to a one hour Ecumenical Prayer Vigil in St John's Church, Wai-iti Road this Sunday 22 March at 4.00pm. Bring a prayer/reading to share, if you wish. Light refreshments served at the conclusion of the Vigil. All Welcome.

CANCELLED:

CHEESE ROLLS: Our cheese rolls fundraiser is cancelled in the meantime and **WELCOME** evening for Frs Chris and Do is on hold also.

RAFFLE drawn this week, the winner of the \$100 note is Lyn Lange, Congratulations. We have another \$100.00 raffle this week. Thank you for your support.

Next Sunday the 29 March is the **end of our financial year** for Planned Giving Receipts.

A parishioner is looking for an exercycle. If you have an unused one, and don't need it, please ring office 6862010.

MASS OFFERINGS: We pray for the sick of the parish and those for whom Mass is requested:
Recently Deceased: Sr Celine.
Anniversaries: 16/3 John Liddy, 19/3 Frank Fitzgerald, 26/3 Clarrie MacDonald.
Other Intentions: Decd members Liddy, Flanagan, Feely, Fitzgerald, MacDonald and Cooper Families.

5th Sunday in Lent - 29 March 2020
 Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45