

Holy Family Parish Timaru



St Thomas the Apostle Church
 12 Mountain View Road
 Timaru
 Ph 686 2010



Sacred Heart Basilica
 7 Craigie Avenue
 Timaru
 Ph 684 4263



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 February 2021

Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.” This was probably the first time the leper had ever been touched. That contact was just as compelling as his cure. The leper perceives in Jesus a compassion, a “pity.” Sickness and suffering can be a powerful occasion to experience the tenderness and goodness of another. Most likely the leper never would have begged Jesus as he did if he had not been afflicted in the first place. “I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble.” The leper presents himself to the Great High Priest, who “fills him with the joy of salvation.” Our sufferings, like the leper’s ailment, can be precisely what draw us close to Jesus.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading (Leviticus 13:1-2,45-46).
 Lepers were considered ritually unclean and were compelled to live apart from the community.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1).
 St Paul urges us never to do anything offensive to anyone but to do everything for the glory of God.

Gospel (Mark 1:40-45).
 This tells of the cure of a leper by Jesus.



“Love never fails.”

In the 1850s, there was a leper colony on the Island of Molokai, part of the Hawaiian Islands. People who were found with leprosy on the main island of Hawaii were put into cages, shipped off to Molokai, and literally dumped into the ocean near the Island. There were no medicines, no doctors, no shelters, no blankets--nothing but the hot sun during the day and cold wind beating on them at night. The Catholic Bishop of the Hawaiian Island knew that there were about ten Catholics among the two or three hundred lepers on Molokai. There was a young priest named Damien de Veuster (now Saint Damien de Veuster, or St. Damien of Molokai), who had been a carpenter before he became a priest. The Bishop asked Fr. Damien to go to the leper colony and put together a prefabricated chapel that had already been shipped there. Fr. Damien was instructed to have no contact with the lepers - no anointing, no confessions, and no burial because the Bishop did not have many priests and did not want to lose a zealous young priest. But conquering his fears, Damien became the first non-leper to stay overnight on the island. He immediately began building shelters for the people. He constructed the Church and began saying Mass. He was surprised to find over a hundred people wanting to pray with him, even though only ten of them were Catholics. He was the first to show Christ's love to them in deeds rather than mere words. A boat came to pick up Fr. Damien after his thirty-day medical visa expired, but Damien refused to go. He built a water system, planted over a thousand trees to protect the people from the scorching sun and continued saying Mass for the people. Lepers of all faiths and no faith went to his Masses. They said, "He holds our hands when we die." In the end Fr. Damien himself contracted leprosy. Towards the end of Father Damien’s life, Mother (now Saint) Marianne Cope and a group of Franciscan Sisters joined him on the island and continued his work. On a little hill in Molokai there is a cross with three words from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians that sum up what was at the heart of St. Damien's work. The words are: "*Love never fails.*"

OUR PRIESTS

Parish Priest:
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PARISH OFFICE

St Thomas the Apostle Church
 12 Mountain View Road, Timaru

Sacred Heart Basilica
 7 Craigie Avenue, 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
 Email: accounts@holyfamilytimaru.org.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Pauline Berry
 Phone 684 4263, 9.30am—12.00pm, Tues-Fri
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Chairperson Parish Council
 Kevin Brosnahan: Phone Ph 6887268

Chairperson Finance & Property Committee
 Jim Anderson: Phone 6848343

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 to 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

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

St Thomas' Church 9.00am

Sacred Heart Basilica 12.05pm

St Mary's Ecumenical 7.00pm.



Ash Wednesday:

As you know, Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for forty days to prepare for his ministry. It was for Him a time of contemplation, reflection, and preparation.

By observing Lent, most Christians join Jesus on His retreat. Lent consists of the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays, because they are always the joyful celebration of the Resurrection. Therefore, the first day of Lent is always a Wednesday.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins-- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Holy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession. This custom entered the church from Judaism, and it is most appropriate on Ash Wednesday, when we begin a period of sober reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection.

Traditionally, the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service come from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Some people only celebrate the happy times in Jesus' life: Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas.

But, as true friends, we should also watch and pray with Him on Holy Thursday, stand by Him at the cross on Good Friday, and retreat with Him into the wilderness during Lent.

"Give alms...Pray to your Father...Fast without a gloomy face..." (Matthew 6: 1-18)

Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme

The Parish is offering a study morning during Lent entitled "A New Way Forward" beginning Wednesday 24 February. Come to the HFP Centre following the 9.00am Mass at the basilica. Have a cuppa and join in the study.

Lenten Envelopes are available to be collected from the foyer at St Thomas' and the porch at Sacred Heart.

Volunteers required for taking Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound. If you are willing to spend a little time carrying out this Ministry please contact Mary Brosnahan 03 686 2384.

"WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION"

is an Agatha Christie murder mystery and is on stage Wednesday 10 March. We have secured 100 seats to sell and these may be purchased from the office at \$30.00 each. This includes a glass of orange or wine and nibbles at the show.

Tickets are available from the office.

We welcome Fr John O'Connor to our parish Masses this weekend.

MASS TIME TABLE

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|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Saturday | 6.00pm | St Thomas' |
| Sunday | 10.30am | St Thomas' |
| Sunday | 9.00am & 5.00pm | Sacred Heart |
| Mon & Fri | 9.00am | Sacred Heart |
| Tues & Thur | 9.00am | St Thomas' |

Wednesday (Ash) 9.00am St Thomas' 12.05pm Sacred Heart

Saturday 9.30am Sacred Heart

(please note the weekday Mass schedule has changed for the coming weeks)

A Funeral Mass will replace the scheduled Mass.

Reconciliation: Sat 10.00—10.30am in Basilica. Sacred Heart.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 15 February

EUCHRE: 1.30pm in St Thomas' Lounge.

ROSARY 2.00pm in St Thomas' Church.

MEN'S GROUP 7.30pm in St Thomas' Lounge, all men welcome.

Tuesday 16 February

MAINLY MUSIC in St Thomas' Lounge 9.30am. All pre-school children welcome.

EUCHRE held at 87 North Street at 1.30pm.

Afternoon tea and raffles. All welcome.

MARIAN MOVEMENT meet 2.00pm in Chapel.

Wednesday 17 February

CWL meet in HFP Centre at 2.00pm.

Thursday 18 February

FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE meet in HFP Centre at 5.15pm.

Friday 19 February

PRAYER GROUP meet in St Thomas' Lounge at 10.00am.

LATIN MASS 6.00pm in Sacred Heart Basilica, reconciliation from 5.30pm.

Friday 5 March

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Ecumenical Service held this year at Sacred Heart Basilica at 2.00pm.

Prepared by the World Day of Prayer of Vanuatu.

If anyone has a flag of Vanuatu, crafts e.g. baskets, beads, conch necklace, sandalwood oil, conch shell or shofar, we would be grateful to borrow for the day. Please contact the office if you can help, Ph 6862010.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this year will be on Friday 5.30pm alternating churches,

Sacred Heart: Friday 26 February, 12 March, 26 March.

St Thomas: 5 March, 19 March.



MASS OFFERINGS: We pray for the sick of the parish and those for whom Mass is requested:

Recently Deceased: Elsie O'Connor,

Anniversaries: 8/2 Joan Orr, 19/2 Maureen Zandbergen

Other Intentions: Noel Holland, Mary Conlan, Wendy Kimble, Decd Members Conlan, Holland, Baird & Zandbergen Families.

First week in Lent — 21 February 2021

Genesis 9:8-15, 1Peter 3:18-22, Matthew 1:12-15