

St. Theresa's Plimmerton

Newsletter | 31 May 2020 – Pentecost Sunday

www.plimmertoncatholic.org.nz



Father Maurice's 50th weekend.

I thought you would like to see the beautiful cake that Maryanne McKennie organised for Father for this special weekend. It is stunning. The photo of him smiling is a screenshot that Matthew & Sharon O'Meagher took for his surprise zoom meeting on Sunday morning.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for all your kind messages and greetings for my golden jubilee of priesthood. They meant so much and the zoom gathering quite blew me away. Later, I had a very pleasant day with my local relations.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Pentecost! We remember and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit who strengthened and empowered the disciples of Jesus to continue sharing his good news. As promised, he did not leave them orphans, either individually or as a community of disciples. As a result the "church" was born.

We thank God, too, that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit forever. A wonderful promise that we can rely on as we move ahead as a parish community! We are linked to that first community and we will not be left alone as we face the challenges of our time. With all our hearts we can pray, "Come Holy Spirit" and know we will be heard, perhaps in ways we might not expect.

As you will know from the letter which I sent to you yesterday, we will open St Theresa's for Mass next Sunday (7th June). If you would like to attend, please inform the parish office. This is necessary because our numbers are limited to fifty, given the size of our church and the rules governing social distancing. The Mass will be live-streamed so that we can all stay linked as a community.

If you would like to receive the Eucharist at home during this celebration, this can be arranged. Again, please contact the parish office so you can be put in touch with someone in your area who can bring it to you on Saturday. The only requirement is that you keep the Blessed Eucharist in a restful and safe place until the Mass.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing the parishioners and Fr Michael McCabe, of Our Lady of Kapiti Parish, every blessing and congratulations as their new church and parish plant is blessed and opened this weekend.

God bless and have a very happy feast of Pentecost. **Father Maurice**

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11 ***Come Holy Spirit, come!***

Imagine yourself in the upper room once more, gathered with Mary and the other women, and the disciples. You've spent some days there telling stories of your times with Jesus, reflecting on his words and his life as you wait together for this mysterious outpouring of his spirit that Jesus promised you.

Look around the room and notice who is there with you.... Mary and some of the disciples... your own family or friends, maybe some people you don't know.... notice the atmosphere as you pray together.

***"Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people
Kindle in us the fire of your love.
Renew the face of the earth."***

Open your hands to the presence of the Spirit of Jesus or place your hand on your heart to welcome the Spirit.

Where in your life do you need the refreshing presence of the Spirit?

Ask confidently for the grace you desire.

Breathe in this grace and breathe out thanksgiving.

Some of the names given the Holy Spirit are ***Advocate, Comforter, Light, Wind, Breath, Fire.***

You might like to pray with this poem by James K Baxter which uses images familiar to us all.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks,
Inside and outside the fences,
You blow where you wish to blow.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the sun who shines on the little plant,
You warm him gently, you give him life,
You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the mother eagle with her young,
Holding them in peace under your feathers.
On the highest mountain you have built your nest,
Above the valley, above the storms of the world,
Where no hunter ever comes.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,
In whom we know already that the battle has been won.
You bring us to our Brother Jesus
To rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn,
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,
Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Lord, Holy Spirit,

In the love of friends you are building a new house,
Heaven is with us when you are with us.
You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor.
Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father



CONGRATULATIONS to Our Lady of Kapiti Parish – who are opening their Church this weekend. Our prayers and blessings are with them at this exciting time.



Letter sent out to Parishioners from Father Maurice this week about reopening our Church

Dear Parishioners,

Warmest Greetings once more!! I'm writing to you today in order to keep everyone updated on the information we have received from the New Zealand Bishops and Cardinal John concerning the re-opening of churches and, in particular, our own.

As advised by the Government we can start to gather with larger numbers (100 people) as of this Friday 29th. Given all the practical requirements concerning health and safety it will not be possible for us to celebrate a public Mass this coming weekend (30th/31st May). I will celebrate on line, as I have been doing.

My own health situation also makes this necessary.

However, if all goes well, my hope is that we can celebrate the Eucharist in the church on **Sunday, 7 June at 9.30am**. It will be live-streamed for those who choose to remain at home. There is no obligation on anyone to attend. Given the social distancing requirements **we will only be able to accommodate 50 people**.

If you do wish to attend, please advise the Parish Office (233 1279; st.theresas@xtra.co.nz) stating whether you are alone or with another or are a family bubble. The last thing we want to do is turn people away at the last minute.

These arrangements are in line with advice contained in a letter from Cardinal John and the New Zealand bishops:

Throughout this pandemic, the safety of you and parishioners has been important to us. We understand that many churches may not be able to resume services if parish leadership needs more time to prepare. We are supportive of parishes making decisions fit for the safety of their church community.

For services to resume, all health and safety requirements as declared by the Ministry of Health must be adhered to strictly. The maximum number permitted at a Mass or a liturgical celebration will be

determined by the ability to space people. In other words, it may not be possible to have 100 people in a small church.

Not all parishioners will be able to attend Mass because of the restrictions of numbers. Others will not attend due to health reasons, concerns or fears. For these reasons, the dispensation of attendance at Sunday Mass continues.

Mass restrictions under pandemic remain in place.

We wish to acknowledge the wonderful work of diocesan offices and parishes during this lockdown. **We have spoken of our delight at the creative way you and parishioners have gathered digitally or supported one another from afar.** We now share in your joy at being able to gather again in celebration of the Eucharist.

In their letter, the bishops also included a list of suggestions. **Adopting and adapting them for St Theresa's will require a generous response from those who are not in the vulnerable category.** The Liturgy Committee will guide details that concern the actual celebration of the Eucharist.

If you can help in one or more of the areas listed below, please contact Joss on the parish number as soon as possible: (233-1279; st.theresas@xtra.co.nz).

Preparing the church beforehand and sanitising it afterwards is especially important. Without parishioners able and willing to do this, the church will have to remain closed.

Greeters at the church door, with tables in the foyer so that parishioners can drop their contact details in a basket, fill in the contact tracing forms, or scan the QR code.

Ushers :

to offer direction towards the available pews, with families/households able to sit together, observing the distance markings on the pews.

Sacristy: only the sacristan enters the sacristy.

Choirs/Singing: At this Alert Level there will be **no choirs or singing**. If musicians are available, they may provide **background music**.

Proclaimers of the Word:

The proclaimers can be seated in a position at the front of the church, so they may more easily fulfil their ministry.

Offertory:

No offertory collection with baskets - the collection will be taken up **at the end of Mass when ushers can stand near the church doors for parishioners to place their contributions/ envelopes in baskets** as they leave. There will be no offertory procession. The gifts will have been placed on the credence table prior to the Mass and the Presider will prepare the altar.

Ministers of Communion:

Only one Minister of Communion for the centre aisle.

Distribution of Holy Communion: Everyone will come forward row by row, keeping the social distancing (1meter) requirement.

Communion will only be available under the form of the Host, and only to be received on the hand, not on the tongue. Holy Communion is not to be distributed from the chalice.

To minimise people passing one another, going to and from Communion, one side of the church will follow when the other side has finished receiving.

Rite of Dismissal:

After the Post Communion prayer, **the leader will give any notices and remind us that we are to leave row by row from the back (or wherever is closest to the door/s)** and leave the church immediately remembering the need for distancing.

Cleaning:

Door handles and pews will be wiped down with sanitiser and the toilets cleaned and sanitised after each celebration.

With thanks, once again, for the wonderful parish and community spirit you are showing at this time and for the many creative ways in which you are keeping this alive.

Wishing you every blessing,
Fr Maurice



Quote of the week

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring.

Pope Francis: [Extraordinary moment of prayer](#), 27 March 2020

Please keep in your prayers those who are sick

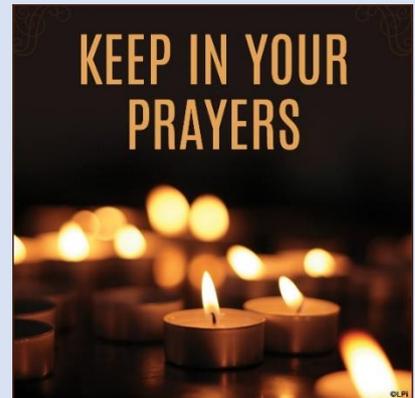
Vince O’Sullivan, Andrew Stewart

RIP

Margaret Selby-Bennetts (Ursula Leggett’s mother)

Anniversaries

Jacqueline Jorion, Michael Meyler, Erina Bourke, Michael Quinn,
James Power, Leonard Eastgate



www.plimmertoncatholic.org.nz.

This is the place to go to see the newsletter, easy access to our YouTube channel for Mass ([St. Theresa's Plimmerton YouTube Channel](#)), the children’s corner, information about the Parish and other resources to help you get through this Covid-19 Level 2. Please remember that Father Maurice invites you to join him Sunday – Friday at 9:30am for Mass. Please click the link above to go to our YouTube channel, and then click **SUBSCRIBE** so that you can receive announcements of upcoming live streams, or check our website for days and times .

- Our Lady of Kapiti is also livestreaming Mass and Prayer services on <https://kapiti-catholic.org.nz/>. Please visit their website to see the time



Open Day Tuesday 30 June

For more information see the St Mary's College Website: stmw.school.nz. Enrolments are open for more information email: office@stmw.school.nz.

Science Laboratory Technician

St Mary's College is seeking a highly organised, reliable lab technician who shows initiative, works well independently and with others in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment. The position requires a mix of practical and administrative tasks completed on a daily basis. Chemistry Lab experience is essential. The job involves purchasing and preparing chemicals as well as maintenance and preparation of science resources to be used in labs and classrooms.

An understanding of the Guidance to the Code of practice for School Exempt Laboratories, 2016, and current health and safety standards is an advantage.

The position is part-time, in school term-time only, for 20 hours per week. Remuneration is aligned with the NZEI Support Staff in Schools' Collective Agreement and dependent on the candidates background and experience.

Upholding the Special Character of St Mary's College as a Catholic mercy college and being able to work collaboratively as part of our high performing Sciences team.

Applications close Friday 12 June 2020 at 12 noon.

Please send a letter of application and your C.V. to principal@stmw.school.nz with a cc to Head of Science, Trevor Keough at trevor.keough@stmw.school.nz.

Learner Support Assistant

St Mary's College is seeking a self motivated well organised Learner Support Assistant who shows initiative, works well independently and with others in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment. You will need to be able to relate to young people and have an enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Previous experience in this type of role would be an advantage.

This position is a part time fixed term position for 20 hours per week starting in term 2 and finishing in term 4. Remuneration is aligned with the NZEI Support Staff in Schools' Collective Agreement and dependent on the candidates background and experience.

The successful applicant will be supportive of the Special Character of St Mary's College as a Catholic mercy college.

Applications close Friday 12 June at 12 noon.

Please send your cover letter and C.V. to Meg Doile by emailing meg.doile@stmw.school.nz.

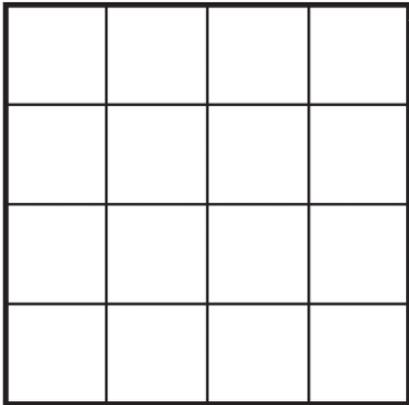
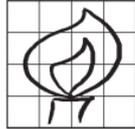
For the children

©LPI



Puzzle

Enlarge the picture square by square.



©LPI



Mission for the Week

When I hurt others, I will say, "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

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Growing with the GOSPEL

My Family and Me

John 20:19-23 Pentecost Sunday

CYCLE A

Read the Gospel and Color



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Name _____



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| EVENING | FIRST | DAY |
| DOORS | CLOSED | DISCIPLES |
| PEACE | SIDE | FATHER |
| BREATHED | FORGIVE | RETAIN |

