

## Who will stay and who will go?

For these last five weeks we have listened to gospel readings from John Chapter 6, readings about bread and, most importantly of all, the Bread of Life. Jesus teaches "I have come to give you the Bread of Life."

This sequence of readings from John (Ch 6) began with the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. Starting with just five little barley loaves and two fishes, they all ate until they were filled, with 12 baskets of food remaining.

And yet here in today's gospel, just a little while after witnessing that miracle, we find many of Jesus' followers murmuring, complaining and disgruntled. For many of them, Jesus' teaching and preaching is proving too hard, too tough, to shocking to accept. Many of them then left and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus asks the Twelve who remain, "Do you also want to leave?"

Sometimes, when frustrated or disappointed or distressed about the failures of our Church, we too might wonder if we can or should leave and walk away. Many of our friends and family have already left. Like those followers who left Jesus, many in our community have found it his teachings too hard. But Peter's words are as true for us as they were for him and for the Twelve: "Master, to whom shall we go?" Much and all as we too can find Jesus' teaching challenging, it is Jesus who has the words of eternal life. It is Jesus, the Holy One of God, who offers us the Bread of Life. There is no other.

So, today's readings present us with questions of decision and commitment.

In the first reading, Joshua, who succeeded Moses and led the Israelites into the Promised Land, challenges the Chosen People, newly settled in that new land, to decide on whether it is God or some other deities they will serve and worship? The people recall the great wonders that the Lord God had done for them and re-commit themselves to serving the Lord.

In the second reading, the Apostle Paul insists that being a Christian does indeed demand choices and commitments of us, some of them hard. He urges us to live in love, as Christ loved us.

The gospel then challenges each of us, today and indeed every day of our lives: shall we follow him or shall we leave.

Jesus didn't promise that it would be easy. Not at all. But what he does promise is food for the journey, the Eucharist of his flesh and blood, eternal life, and undying love.

So, what is your response to Jesus' question: Do you also want to leave? Let us pray for the strength and the courage to hold on to our faith in Jesus. Let us remember and give thanks for the many things that the Lord has done for us. Let us come and find nourishment in the Eucharist. And let us support and encourage each other on the journey.

Ann Hunt  
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## MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

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**21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 August**

### Covid-19: Pope offers prayer to Virgin Mary for protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you,  
health of the sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in  
Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

We are certain that you will provide,  
so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,  
joy and feasting might return after  
this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the Father's will  
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our  
sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the  
Resurrection.

Amen.

*We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of  
God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test  
and deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin.*



**BUILDINGS CLOSED BUT NOT THE LIVING CHURCH**

Moving to Alert 4 sees all of us self-isolating. Not just to keep ourselves safe but those about us. This requires our Church buildings to close. But not the **Living Church**. We, the People of God, are still missionary disciples, praying for and supporting one another. The priests are still praying Mass, privately without a physically present Congregation. They are praying for all people and with all people.



**The Church and Office are in lockdown until further notice. Only those who have specific permission from a member of the Covid-19 Committee are to enter the premises. Our administration team is working from home through internet access. They will be able to respond to emails but not messages left on the telephone.**

**Resources in times of Lockdown** The diocese has a number of resources available on its website to support people during this time <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/home-2020-new-design/the-church-and-covid-level-4/>



A reminder that the diocese continues to provide broadcast Sunday Mass. It is uploaded at 5.30pm Saturday night (as per a Vigil Mass time) to the Youtube channel Auckland Catholic

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb7o1XYfQet-mOW1mJSzfow>

It is also broadcast on Shine TV Sundays at 2.00pm Free-to-air TV Channel 25, Sky TV Channel 201.

**We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during August:** Lyall Headland, Marie Murdoch, Alan Amos, Leon Schollum, William Towers, Thomas GROVER, Victoria GrBic, Clive McCarthy, Leo Williams, Geoffrey Strange, Raeburn O'shea, Fr Anthony Glover CSsR, Janet Nelson, Dorothea Galloway, Eileen Brosnan, Marcie Towers, Daphne Cavanagh, Br Aubrey Barrett CSsR, Audrey Higgins

**MASS FOR THOSE CONSECRATED TO ST JOSEPH**

On Tuesday evening, Fr Doan celebrated Mass with those who have consecrated themselves to St Joseph. This was the conclusion of the 33-day Consecration, If you would like to do your consecration to St Joseph and missed your opportunity, please contact Lucy at [lucynani@gmail.com](mailto:lucynani@gmail.com) If there are several people interested, we will organize another group, with a Consecration date of Nov 1.



**Next Week: 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time 28 & 29 August 2021**

1. Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8
2. James 1:17-18,21-22,27
3. Gospel Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

**"MASSES SUBJECT TO COVID LOCKDOWN LEVEL"**

<b><u>ROSTERS</u></b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	Judith Everitt	Donny James	Sina Tevaga
<b>Greeters</b>	Jennifer Dalglish Desley King	Maria Kneebone Carmela Cheval	Peter Wallace Pina Tevaga
<b>Musicians</b>			
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Louise Morton	Fiona Wilson	Chris IZQUIERDO
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	A clean heart - Shari French & Jacki Jeanmonod		
<b>Prayers of the Faithful</b>	Siobhan Sims		
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	Valerie Yeong Frank Blewman	Sam Wimsett Gerard Murphy	Emma Diack Kathleen Ward
<b>Readers</b>	Michelle Yates Mark Hillman	Donny James Alex Binnie	Ora Vidak Mathew Bland
<b>Cleaners</b>	Jasmine & Brendan Connolly		
<b>Grace Joel</b>	10.30am Gerard Murphy	<b>Altar Linen:</b> Sue Rivalland	
<b>Sac Prog</b>	<b>Offertory Procession:</b>		