

The goal is every Sunday to listen to the Word that God speaks in our hearts, and thereby shape our lives, our love, our moral compass and our faith journey in a principled following of Christ.

My homily and the other readings for this Sunday is available at [https://share.icloud.com/photos/0dDE8J\\_heRKQvBfvjcb7RKp-A](https://share.icloud.com/photos/0dDE8J_heRKQvBfvjcb7RKp-A) and on the Parish Website.

You will have seen in the news the horrific child abuse figures of the Catholic Church in France. So many people whose lives have been damaged. It is truly heartbreaking.

It tells us that we all must bring everything out in public in order that healing, both of survivors and of the church as an institution, may begin.

I am glad that our NZ church took the initiative and lobbied the Government in order to be included — and thus independently investigated — in the Royal Commission of Inquiry.

This month the Australian Catholic Church begins a national Synod. It began as a direct response to the devastating critique it received over abuse, but has morphed into a synod of the state of the Church as such. *Pray for them!*

Back to us. I know lockdown is getting more and more stressful. I do hope that the relaxing of the restrictions just a little has lifted your spirits. I think especially of those whose circumstances mean they remain fully locked down — for example, those in retirement villages. Please ring someone today.

To our children and young people and their families, *happy holidays!*

Lots of encouragement to each and all of us, and may God continue to bless us all.

**Fr John Dunn**

## MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

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**28th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 October 2021**



*Ask Mary to accompany you in the recitation of the Rosary and inspire you to take your prayer into your daily actions.*

### **Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**

*O Virgin Mary, grant that the recitation of thy Rosary may be for me each day, in the midst of my manifold duties, a bond of unity in my actions, a tribute of filial piety, a sweet refreshment, an encouragement to walk joyfully along the path of duty.*

*Grant, above all, O Virgin Mary, that the study of thy twenty mysteries may form in my soul, little by little, a luminous atmosphere, pure, strengthening, and fragrant, which may penetrate my understanding, my will, my heart, my memory, my imagination, my whole being.*

*So shall I acquire the habit of praying while I work, without the aid of formal prayers, by interior acts of admiration and of supplication, or by aspirations of love.*

*I ask this of thee, O Queen of the holy Rosary, through Saint Dominic, thy son of predilection, the renowned preacher of thy mysteries, and the faithful imitator of thy virtues.*

*Amen.*

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings once again, on the 28th Sunday of the Church's year and in lockdown 3, step one.

This week we find ourselves in an ambiguous situation vis-à-vis Covid: Eliminate or Manage? It seems the Government has chosen the latter path, accepting that Covid is here to stay, but that its terrible effects can be limited by vaccination.

On that note, I repeat Bishop Pat's and Pope Francis' (and Pope emeritus Benedict's) encouragement for us to get immunized.

In terms of the Parish, this week was relatively quiet. We had our Joint PPC Zoom meeting on Monday. I am happy to report that there is an increasingly good 'feel' about the meetings as we work together.

Our previous meeting focused on level 2, and that has turned out to be premature. So, I'm very, very sorry — in line with the Bishop's directive, no open church and no Masses as of now.

One point of interest was a discussion of what to do when we do return to Mass in terms of our ministers, and their having or not having been immunized.

A minister is a volunteer, and any ministry is a privilege. On the other hand, privacy does not oblige anyone to disclose their own status.

What is our policy? I think people need to know that our priests and deacon have been immunized (I have). Do you need to know whether the minister from whom you receive Holy Communion has been immunized? If you don't know, what will you do?

People are nervous, and I suspect that many will not come to Mass unless they have certainty on this issue. I will give that in due course, once the Bishop has had his say.

Our readings this week are beautiful. I have spoken about the first reading and the Gospel in my recorded homily. Please read the readings beforehand to get the most out of them: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101021.cfm>

But I would like to add a reflection on the Second Reading. Because we cannot go to Mass and receive the Lord in Holy Communion, I would like to remind us that we are fed at the twin tables of the Word and of the Sacrament, and so in this Covid time we can still encounter the Lord and be nourished by his Word:

*The Church is nourished spiritually at the table of God's word and at the table of the Eucharist: from the one it grows in wisdom and from the other in holiness. In the word of God the divine covenant is announced; in the Eucharist the new and everlasting covenant is renewed. The spoken word of God brings to mind the history of salvation; the Eucharist embodies it in the sacramental signs of the liturgy. (General Introduction to the Lectionary, 16)*

What is the Word of God in Church? It is not the book, the lectionary, which is made up of the written words of Scripture. It is not simply the reading out loud (proclamation) of the scriptures. It is not simply the homily (A homily is a reflection on the Readings of the day).

When we listen to these all, there is a personal dimension. Something within us responds and leads us to reflection and prayer. That is where God speaks to us. That is the Word of God, encountering us where we are at. You may hear one thing, the person alongside you may hear another, suitable for them. God speaks personally to each, and guides our week ahead. We also ask, 'What is God saying to us as a family, as a Church?'

Not many know that we Catholics have become a people of the Gospels. Each year and every Sunday we read through one Gospel (This year it is Mark). If we go to Mass every Sunday we reflect on the whole Gospel.