

WHERE TO FIND REPENTANCE

We might understand saying sorry, or an apology, forgiveness, even reconciliation and healing, but often we're uncertain what part repentance plays in our lives. Yet it's the very first thing that Jesus calls us to in the gospels and in Lent it's front and centre.

So, in today's gospel we hear two stories: firstly, the tragic story of the Galileans murdered by Herod in the temple. Jesus' response to it is quite unexpected because he asks the people, do you think these Galileans were worse sinners than those Galileans who survived? "No", he says, and urges us in the light of a coming judgment to repent of our self-serving or it will be the ruin of us.

The second story is the fig-tree parable which offers hope that God will be patient; but there is a point when the gardener will have to say enough if, after patient tending, the tree still bears no fruit. There's an underlying urgency in this, but God is at work so that we may bear fruit: trust in his presence.

If we're uncertain about repentance, one writer has noted, it's there in the 12-step program to recovery from addiction, where participants begin by owning that they're powerless and their lives have become unmanageable. It's also a reminder that repentance is one step towards finding peace.

That's where we all come to, most often unable, or unwilling, to see ourselves in this way. We say we can manage our shortcomings, or issues, with some assistance from God at times, so when the going gets tough, we get on with our lives, occasionally wondering what, or who, is absent from them, but trudging on.

At those tough moments in our lives – of failure, betrayal, death – we might pray earnestly to God, but there comes a breakthrough point when we realise we need to let God be in our lives, rather than make use of him, however openly, or subtly, we go about it. A god made in our own image, who does our bidding, is not the God made real to us in Jesus Christ. And it's this deep reluctance to get real we're wanting to name and repent of in Lent. This has implications for us all, because it's never simply a private matter, which means we're in this together.

We'll only be able to repent if we take to heart what the psalm says: 'The Lord is kind and merciful'. That's who 'I Am', the God of the burning bush, who appears to Moses in the first reading: trust in his love. In the second reading we're reminded that we're living at the end of the age and we're cautioned not simply to trust in our own efforts to feel safe: trust in his love. Because the only place where repentance will happen is where there is love, where we are loved, in the company of one another. This is the life offered to us, here and now, in Jesus Christ.

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Damian Coleridge
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FEAST OF ST JOSEPH *19 March*



***Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of
life. Obtain for us grace,
mercy and courage, and
defend us from every evil.
Amen.***

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn
Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555
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Wednesday: 1.30-5pm
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Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic
Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan (Home)5754354
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 March 2022

***Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin
Mary.***

***To you God entrusted his only
Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.***



newsletter



TAX RECEIPTS

I am hoping to have available the annual tax receipts for your Church donations during the first 10 days of April.

For those of you who pay your donations by autopayment, if I have your email address, I will email it to you. If you did not get it by email last year, it may mean

that I have not got your email address. If you would like it emailed, please email it to me at peter@peterjcoakley.co.nz Otherwise, it will be left in the Church foyer for you to pickup.

For those of you who use envelopes, your receipt and new envelopes are also on the desk in the foyer.

If you have any queries regarding this don't hesitate to give me a call on **0274 332 953**

Peter Coakley
Finance Committee

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent there will be

Stations of the Cross

at 7pm



PARISH LIBRARY

Betty Mortimer has kindly donated her book collection to the Parish. These books are now displayed on the shelves in the foyer. Please feel free to borrow and writing the name of the book and a contact number in the provided exercise book.

Thank you, Betty for your generosity.

May we also take the opportunity of thanking you for taking responsibility of the Adoration Roster over the last ten years.

POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Diocesan consultation phase of the Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church is coming to an end. The final deadline for responses is 14 April 2022.

Pope Francis is keen to hear what you think about the question "how we journey together". He wants to "listen to the questions, concerns and hopes of every Church, people and nation".

The easiest way for you to send Pope Francis your thoughts is through one of the online tools that are available.

The first and easiest to give brief feedback is at www.surveymonkey.com/r/francis2022.

Alternatively, the Auckland Diocese has both Word and Online forms available at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/synod-participation/

This link enables longer feedback and also provides more resources and background on the Synod.

Please take this opportunity to help shape the future of our Church

Next Week: 4th Sunday of Lent 26 & 27 March 2022

1. Joshua 5:9-12 2. 2Corinthians 5:17-21

3. Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11-32

ROSTER		5.30pm	10.00am
Vaccine Verifier		Michelle Yates	Steve D'Souza
Greeters		Joanne Van Vliet Gerard Hart	Lietta Latu
Musicians			
PowerPoint		Maureen Keenan	Tongan Community
Children's Liturgy			
Prayers of the Faithful	Bernie Culpan		
Ministers of Communion		Br Frank Blewman	Willie Lavaka
Readers		Kathy Slater Sebastian Sandiyao	Emele Palu Vanessa Thomas
Cleaners	Lina Kau Kau & Family	Altar Linen - Ingrid Coakley	
Grace Joel	10.30am		