

A reflection on Euthanasia from Fr James Lyons:

The Parliamentary Select Committee that investigated into ending one's life in New Zealand has yet to make its report, but New Zealanders have made it abundantly clear that they are not in favour of legalising euthanasia. An unprecedented number of submissions rejected the idea by 4 to 1.

Nevertheless, an "End of Life Choice Bill" has been drawn from the Ballot and will be debated in Parliament later this month. It is important that the voice of the people be heard, and a law that will not be able to avoid unintended consequences be roundly defeated.

Opening the door to a death-on-demand policy, however tightly restricted the option might be, increases the possibility of manipulation, whereby the elderly or terminally ill could be made to feel obligated to seek a medically assisted death. Just as no one wants to see their loved one suffering, or awaiting death through a protracted illness, nobody wants to be a burden on others. A request for a medically assisted death from a patient may present as a rational and conscious decision while, in reality, because of pressure or a sense of duty is not a completely free choice. No legislation should enable such an unjust situation to arise.

Nor can our lawmakers expect the medical profession to abandon the commitment to heal and preserve life by making them collaborators in the termination of life.

Our Bishops ask us to become well-informed on this issue, and invite us to send postcards to our MPs urging them to vote "No" to this Bill. Please do so.

I was reminded recently of words of St Augustine: *what's right is right, even if no one is doing it; and what's wrong is wrong, even if everyone's doing it.*

Fr James

Prayer For Synod 2017

*Go You Are Sent
God, whose power is at its best in weakness:
You have entrusted us, in our frailty,
with the awesome privilege
of being your presence in our world.
You say to each of us: Go, you are sent.*

*In naming and sending,
you honour our ability to serve.
Yet we know our need of you,
even as we travel in the
echo of your voice: Go, you are sent.*

*Bless our Archdiocese of Wellington as we set out
and, as you have done for so many,
strengthen our weariness; steady our trembling.
May we never forget that you are with us
and joyfully answer your call: Go, you are sent.*

*We go, gifting your mercy, proclaiming your truth,
and celebrating your goodness;
our words and actions
revealing your face
to all we meet.
Blessed are you, God of the journey. Amen.*

Otari Parish St Teresa and St Thomas More

Parish Priest

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Fr Sanele Finau
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Saturday Vigil:

Weekdays:

Reconciliation:

5:30 pm (Karori), **Sunday** 8.30am (Wilton) 10.00 am (Karori)

Tue 9.30am, Wed 6.30am & 9.30am, Thurs 9.30am, Fri 6.30am & 9.30am, Sat 9am

Saturday: 9.30 – 10am

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

15/16 July 2017

YEAR A

Liturgy of the Word:

Pslam Response: *"The seed that fell on good ground will yield a rich harvest."*

Today's Reading: Isaiah 55/ 10-11, Romans 8/ 18-23, Matthew 13/ 1-23

Next Sunday: Wisdom 12/13, 16-20, Romans 8/ 26-27, Matthew 13/ 24-43.



The Parable of the Sower

Despite the traditional title as the parable of "the sower", the real focus is on the seeds and their respective yields. The assumption is that all the seeds are good; the problem is the type of soil in which the seeds have been sown.

There is a clear contrast between the ideal disciples who accept and understand the word against those who neither accept nor act upon Jesus' preaching for various reasons: evil activity, personal shallowness, worldly concerns, or desire for wealth.

God's Word is the seed, our hearts and minds are the soul. The good spiritual yield in life depends on how much a person willingly accepts and responds to the word of the Lord. The yield arising from the positive response will be abundant beyond all imagination.

It is a wonderful parable for a **Stewardship Parish**. How much of the gifts, talents and treasures that God gives do we really use to come closer to God and to bring others closer. We have been given much and have been blessed in many ways. However, there is an onus on us to make good use of what we have been given.

Some points to ponder:

Deep down in my heart, where do I fit in with the four types of soil in the parable? What are the reasons?

In order to let Jesus' word yield abundantly in my spiritual life, what changes do I have to make in my relationship to God and to others, in my interest, and in my career?

To whom much is given, much is asked. How can I use my gifts for others.

Fr Ron



Communion to the Sick and

Housebound: A beautiful ministry in our church is that of taking communion to those who are sick or housebound.

If you know anyone in this situation, who would like communion brought to them, please contact the Parish office 476 6131.

If you would like to participate in this ministry please contact the Parish office (suitable training will be given.)

Because this is an important ministry, it seems appropriate that Eucharistic Ministers should be sent forth from the Sunday Mass that they are attending. We hope to reintroduce this way of doing things towards the end of the month.

Stewardship Reflection on today's gospel: 15^h Sunday in Ordinary time.

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." – Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities that you have no time for God? Stewardship is a lifestyle to be lived every day. It affects all the decisions we make. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week.

Holy Hour:

You are invited to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 25 July beginning at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral Chapel to pray for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. This Holy Hour will include prayers, scripture, praise and worship, times of silence and conclude with Benediction followed by supper.

Early Morning Masses:

6.30am every Wednesday and Friday in St Teresa's Chapel. Come and join us.

A Caring Space:

An invitation for those who care for a loved one, to spend a few hours creatively exploring with God, what scripture says about their role as carer. The view is through a Christian lens but the material would suit any seeker of God
Led by Gill Schaap and Veronica Parton
Thursday 3rd August at the Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington
OR
Monday 14th August at St Andrew's, 11 Steyn Avenue, Plimmerton
Time: 11am – 2pm - Hot drinks provided, please bring your own lunch
Cost: \$10
For more details and to register contact Veronica Parton vjpdap@gmail.com or 021 238 6675



Growing Great Families, with John Cowan.

For parents who invest in their family, the rewards are huge. You can build your family the same way as you build a house, with good foundations of love and values, strong walls of boundaries and discipline and a roof of parental 'mana' to keep it all together. Learn to make this happen with the least effort.



Wednesday 26 July 2017
Karori West Normal School 19 Allington Road.
FREE admission
6.30pm Doors open with light refreshments
7.00pm - 8.30pm John's presentation

Please register your interest here:
tinyurl.com/hottipsparentingcourse
For further information please contact Christine Dowell on families@kbc.org.nz www.theparentingplace.com

Visiting: Fr Ron is visiting the parish by alphabetical list of streets. He is at present on the D and E streets. However, if you wish to have a visit from a priest immediately, please contact the parish office 476 6131 or Fr Ron 021 065 8997.

GO, YOU ARE SENT!

We know that slogan now, but what about contributing to the process of discovering how we might witness our faith and make the Gospel more relevant in our parish and city?



Cardinal John has asked each of us to help plan a direction for the Archdiocese for the next ten years, to see how "we can influence the society of which we are a part, especially the suffering and injustice that engulfs much of it..."

Do you have an opinion about how we might find more "leaders" for our Archdiocese?

Can you contribute to a policy on refugees and migrants? What about our relationship with other Churches, other Faiths?

How do we reach young people?

What are your concerns regarding marriage and family?

Marist St Pats RFC: Senior and Junior Players and Supporters of MSP are invited to attend the Clubs' Annual Mass to be held at the newly strengthened and refurbished St Mary of the Angels Church, Boulcott St, Wellington, on Sunday 23 July at 11.00am. Mass will be followed by a light lunch.

You are invited by Otari CWL to a second session of Women in the Bible, after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 19th July. This session will be led by Spiritual Director, Susan Chrisp.

CWL National Fundraiser:

'The Wind in the Willows' Friday 21st July 6.30pm light supper served 6pm. Khandallah Arts Theatre, Cochran Hall, 110 Cashmere Ave, Khandallah.
\$25 adults and \$20 children/concession (over 65). Treat for the Grandchildren! Transport available. Tickets: Karen Saunders 476 0044 E: choirloft56@gmail.com

Keeping Faith in Politics 2017 Election series: Welcoming Strangers in a World of Global Migration

Join Julianne Hickey (Director of Caritas Aoteara New Zealand) as she reflects on global migration, Kiwi immigration policies, and the biblical obligation to welcome the stranger. Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (40 Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington) on **Thursday, 27 July - 6:30pm** Refreshments/ 7:00pm Lecture starts. Organised by The Catholic Institute - TCI on behalf of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues.

'The Reformation: Is it Over?'

A day seminar by the Wellington Theological Consortium (WTC)
9 September, Saturday, from 9.30am- 4.30pm at The Salvation Army Wellington City Corps, Vivian Street
Speakers: Dr Nick Thomson, Br Kieran Fenn, FMS, Dr Joe McGarry and Rev. Rob Yule. To register david_wardie@nzf.salvationarmy.org. For more information: Maya Bernardo m.bernardo@tci.ac.nz

Catholic and Anglican Housing Forum – 9 August
Cardinal John Dew and Bishop Justin Duckworth are hosting a housing forum at the Anglican Cathedral on Wednesday 9 August at 6.30pm

Please come and hear:
· Christian perspectives on our current housing crisis
· Stories from people in the community
· Responses from political parties
Music and light refreshments available from 5.45pm.

Rising Tide

The Archdiocesan Young Church Ministries team invites all Young Adults to The Rising Tide: The human unit: marriage, family and community at the Catholic Centre 22-30 Hill Street Wellington. Monday 24th July. Doors open at 6.30 pm and event starts at 7.00pm. Discussion will explore how to live and love the changing reality of what a modern family is. For more information contact Josh Nerona 496 1701 j.nerona@wn.catholic.org.nz

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship.

Come along and join us on Thursday 20th of July 2017 at 7:30pm for fellowship and prayer in Connolly Hall, Guilford Terrace, Thorndon (behind Sacred Heart Cathedral).
Speaker: David Monastra, previous Leader of Joshua Wellington on "Jesus Healer, make me whole"
Want to know more? Ring John Taylor (04) 389-8915 or 021-107-8538 or email: jnjtaylor@paradise.net.nz

Healing Service.

Fr John Rea will conduct a Healing Service at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday 18 July beginning at 7.30 pm. All are welcome. Please bring those who need Jesus' healing.



Many thanks to Brian Halton our 5.30pm Mass Manager who is retiring from this role this weekend. Brian has gone about this important ministry with incredible diligence and efficiency and this has been appreciated by all the clergy who have celebrated Masses here as well as the parishioners he greets every week. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



Readings for the Week 17 - 23 July

Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22; Mt 10:34 – 11:1
Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15; Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Ex 11:10 - 12:14; Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Song 3:1 –4: Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Sunday – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

Mass Offered for:

The anniversary of **Sam Sutherland**

Preference of Enrolment Forms to be signed:

Fr. Ron is available to sign preferences for catholic primary schools and colleges. Contact him at 021 065 8997.

This week's reflection from the Catholic Bishops' statement on the 2017 General Election:

We hope for positive, pro-life attitudes and policies. Love and care for the unborn, the vulnerable, the disabled, the elderly and the different, are marks of a compassionate society, as are well-funded palliative care services. Legislation of assisted suicide undermines trust in the medical profession and puts vulnerable groups in our society at risk.

Wellington JPD Commission

Nowadays it is sad to see that land, housing and work are ever more distant for the majority. It is strange but, if I talk about this, some say that the Pope is communist. They do not understand that love for the poor is at the centre of the Gospel. Land, housing and work, what you struggle for, are sacred rights. To make this claim is nothing unusual; it is the social teaching of the Church. Pope Francis, 2014