

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH
 + + + + + **Perpetual adoration - in the chapel** + + + + +

MONDAY 21st St Agnes			
4.45pm	Exposition & prayer	5.15pm Mass	St Joseph's Parish Centre
TUESDAY 22nd St Vincent			
8.30am	Exposition & prayer	9.15am Mass	St Gregory's Church
WEDNESDAY 23rd			
8.30am	Exposition	9.15am Mass	St Joseph's Parish Centre
10.00am	Prayer and Reflection Group		St Joseph's Parish Centre
THURSDAY 24th St Francis de Sales			
11.30am	Rosary	Noon Mass	St Gregory's Church
FRIDAY 25th The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle			
8.30am	Exposition & rosary	9.15am Mass	St Joseph's Parish Centre
SATURDAY 26th Sts Timothy and Titus			
8.30am	Exposition	9.15am Mass	St Joseph's Parish Centre
9.45am	Sacrament of Reconciliation		St Joseph's Presbytery
5.15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation		St Gregory's Church
5.30pm	Rosary	6.00pm Mass	St Gregory's Church
SUNDAY 27th 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time			
8.30am	Mass	10.00am Mass	5.00pm Mass
			St Gregory's Church

PRAYER HELPLINE INTENTIONS

- > In thanks and praise for God's continuous love and on-going blessings
- > For Fr John and Fr Thanh as they prepare to move to their new parishes
- > For care on our roads as the holiday period draws to an end
- > For the children in our world living in fear
- > For those suffering from grief of any kind

Parish Priest	Fr John Adams	352 9275
Assistant Parish Priest	Fr Thanh Tran	352 9275
Pastoral Associates	Lauren Butler	027 424 6045
	Irene Maguire	027 622 9415
	Megan Stewart	021 069 6233
Parish Secretary	Wilma Vertogen	352 9275
Family Group Coordinator	Irene Maguire	027 622 9415
School Principal	Aaron Richards	352 8779



SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

As I write my final bulletin comment as the parish priest here at St Joseph's Papanui, I do so in similar circumstances to my very first – surrounded by banana boxes, mainly full of books I have yet to read! However, eight years later I am certainly a wiser person than when I began here – my first parish. I've been formed by the generosity and goodness of the people who worship here. For this I am so grateful.

When I am asked to describe 'what it is like being a priest', I tend to go back to the same phrase, "... it's a rare adventure..." and that describes well these past eight years. I arrived here a few weeks before the 2011 earthquakes. In fact, I think I celebrated Mass on just two weekends in the old St Josephs Church. I confess that the aftermath of the earthquakes were hugely taxing for me, and looking back there were times when I could have done better. For those times, and since then, I apologise to anyone who has had to suffer from my inadequacies.

I leave the parish, I believe, in good heart. I know that Bishop Paul has a wonderful vision for the diocese which will of course include some exciting plans for the people of this parish. I had lunch with Fr Benito and Fr Do yesterday. They are two fine priests and I know they too will benefit from working among you.

At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary, after pointing out her son Jesus, gave the servants some advice; "Do whatever he tells you ..." I commend this instruction to you also. Please continue to pray for me as I seek to do the same.

Fr John Adams
PARISH PRIEST

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Parish website www.stjosephspapanui.org.nz Diocesan website www.chch.catholic.nz
 Facebook www.facebook.com/stjopap Youth Group stjoespapyg@gmail.com

*Photos may be taken during special events or activities
 and shared with the parish community on facebook/stjopap*

Life is a colourful book which is enriched by various chapters. Before we turn to a new chapter, we need to close the previous one. Sometimes we really enjoy reading some of the pages in the book and we want to keep reading them over and over again. Nevertheless, to understand more about the story and to comprehend the whole meaning of the author, we need to move on and read all the chapters and pages.

A new chapter of my life is about to begin. I will move to another parish next week. Nearly two and half years at St Joseph's Parish, here in Papanui, has been a wonderful time for me. I have really enjoyed every moment I had in this beautiful parish family. When I first knew that I would go to another parish, I was very sad. I thought about all the relationships I had made in this parish and all the people I have met and come to know. "It would be sad for me not to carry on being surrounded by these people," I thought to myself.

However, I took time to reflect on my life as a priest and I have come to understand that as a priest, I would need to go to different communities; to meet and serve different people. One of the promises I took at my ordination was "obedience." As a priest, I needed to say 'yes' to the bishop when he asked me to go elsewhere. Some people may think that obedience takes away their freedom. Yet, obedience actually gives us true freedom. When we learn this, we do not need to worry much about things around us and our hearts will be more peaceful. Mother Mary has given us a wonderful example about obedience and about saying 'yes' to God. It can be difficult at times but it is important for us to learn to say 'yes' to God through saying 'yes' to the people around us; be it our bishop, father, mother, teacher, etc. I am more settled now as I begin to understand the meaning of a priestly life.

I am so thankful to the Lord for all His blessings, especially for granting me the privilege of being a priest of His people. I am grateful to Him for placing me in this parish and for giving me such a great time here. I would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks to you all from the bottom of my heart. Thanks for your the many cups of tea and coffee, glasses of water, beautiful meals, friendly gestures and lovely conversations. I thank you for your advice, opinions, encouragement, motivation, criticism, support, love and prayers for me. You have not only nurtured my body but also my faith and you have deepened my enthusiasm for being a priest.

I am aware that to become a priest is not easy and to be a good priest is so much harder. I will remember you in my prayers and in the Masses I celebrate and may I also ask you to continue to support me in your love and prayers please. Once again, thank you very much for everything. May our heavenly Father continue to bless us all.

Fr Thành Trần

TODAY'S READINGS

Is 62:1-5 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10 1 Cor 1:12-30 Lk 1:1-4

MANY CONGRATULATIONS

It is a pleasure to have Bishop Paul Martin among us this weekend for the wonderful occasion of presenting Janette McKee with the *Crux Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* in recognition of her many years of faithful service to our parish.

She receives a diploma and insignia, along with the congratulations of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples.

Our prayers and best wishes are extended to Janette and her family.

PRAY THE ST IGNATIUS SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN DAILY LIFE

If we are not able to spend 30 days away on retreat, there is the option of praying the exercises each day over 32 weeks while continuing on with your normal life. Lauren is looking to accompany a small number of participants in spiritual direction on this retreat. For details phone 027 424 6045 or email laurenbutler76@gmail.com

TABLECLOTHS

If anyone has borrowed the white tablecloths over Christmas, or taken them home to be cleaned, can they please be returned to St Gregory's Parish Centre.

THANK YOU

Jose O'Sullivan would like to say a huge thank you to the parishioners of his home parish, St Joseph's Papanui, for all the support during his year at the seminary in Auckland. Last year was a great year of discernment which he greatly enjoyed.

He now knows that God is calling him away from the seminary and he will not be continuing formation this year. He thanks you for all your prayers.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of Executive Officer for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, based in Wellington. For a job description email t.halliday@wn.catholic.org.nz. CV and covering letter to Cardinal John Dew, PO Box 1937, Wellington or email j.dew@wn.catholic.org.nz

GOING TO DUNEDIN FOR BUSINESS

Why not stay at the former seminary, Holy Cross College, in Mosgiel? Budget rooms with shared bathroom facilities and large hotel-equivalent rooms with ensuite and queen-size beds available. Visit holycross@burnslodge.nz.

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

- § all those who have no-one to pray for them
- § all those who have died recently - John O'Carroll
- § and all those whose anniversaries or birthdays occur at this time.



Eternal rest, grant to them, O Lord.