

October 8, 2023 • 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

Look to the Good Things

This Week's Readings at Mass

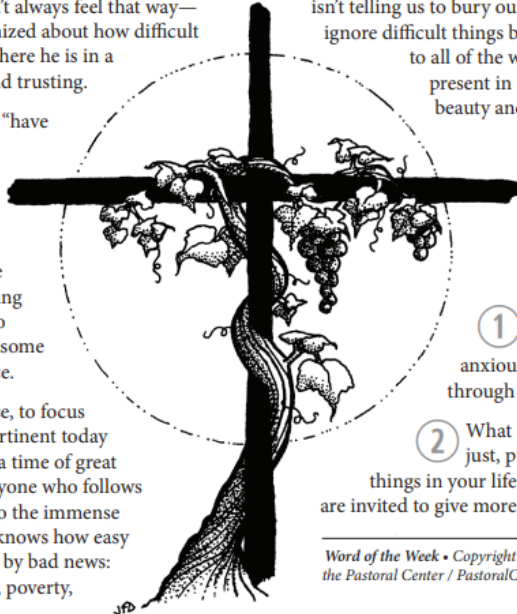
- ▶ Isaiah 5:1-7 • The vineyard song
- ▶ Philippians 4:6-9 • Joy and peace in Christ
- ▶ Matthew 21:33-43 • Parable of the tenants

We don't often focus on the second reading from the epistles, but Paul has a particularly beautiful message for us this week.

The words in Paul's letter to the Philippians are timeless in their comfort and encouragement, especially considering that historians think Paul wrote them while he was imprisoned. By the time of this writing, Paul had suffered immensely as a result of his faith. During his travels throughout the Mediterranean world teaching and preaching about Jesus, Paul had been arrested, beaten, imprisoned, chased out of town, shipwrecked, gone hungry, and bitten by a poisonous snake. Yet at times, he was still able to feel profound peace and gratitude and offer his troubles to God in prayer. We know from some of his other letters that he didn't always feel that way—there were times he agonized about how difficult his life journey was. But here he is in a good space, confident and trusting.

Paul's encouragement to "have no anxiety at all" may be easier said than done. Sometimes we can't just turn off our anxiety. Other times, though, just the reminder that we can bring our fears and concerns to God in prayer can bring some relief and a sense of peace.

Paul's next piece of advice, to focus on the good, is just as pertinent today as it was for him during a time of great suffering and unrest. Anyone who follows the news or is attentive to the immense pain in the world today knows how easy it is to feel overwhelmed by bad news: natural disasters, racism, poverty,




TODAY, IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS, EVERYBODY RAISE AN OLIVE BRANCH AS A SYMBOL OF PEACE.

OH-MY-GOSH! GUYS! THIS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR. OOPS!

WHY WOULD YOU EAT THE SYMBOLS OF PEACE?

NO BITTER AFTERTASTE.

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"Keep on doing what you have learned, received, heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."

Sheepish Question:
 How and with whom shall I SHARE the peace of God in Christ Jesus today?

illness, etc. The media feeds us the more sensationalized stories—focusing on the one plane that crashes rather than the many that land safely each day. Paul isn't telling us to bury our heads in the sand and ignore difficult things but to turn our attention to all of the ways God is active and present in the world: in matters of beauty and truth and honor. This advice is an antidote just as needed today as any time in history.

Questions of the Week

- ① Have you ever had an experience of being anxious but then finding peace through prayer?
- ② What are some true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, or gracious things in your life right now to which you are invited to give more attention?

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REMINDER: CY KELLETT – Guest speaker at St Thomas More Church & Parish Centre this **Sat, 7 Oct at 6.30pm**.
Come along, to hear this most engaging speaker.

A Teacher of Strange Things: Who was Jesus,
What did Jesus teach and Why do people still follow Him?
Cy speaks the facts and the truths about the Catholic Faith in
a genuinely engaging way.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2024 are available after the Sunday 10am Mass
and from the parish office. \$12.00

CLEANER WANTED: For St Thomas More parish centre (paid position). If
interested please contact parish office for Job Description. Approx 6 hours
per week.

SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY (8 October): The theme this year is Te Kahu o te Ora
- A Consistent Ethic of Life. The work being done includes an extensive
revision and updating of the bishops' statement of that name from 1997.
The resources will also be published on this NZCBC web page as they be-
come available: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/sls23/>

WELLINGTON – MARCH FOR LIFE [Register here for our Wellington Con-
voy](#) (There are two vans going and have booked accommodation).

NZ CATHOLIC: Bishop John Adams ordained in Palmerston North. General
Election Bishops' Statement and Party Policies. Catholic bookstore
organised in Christchurch parish. New youth hub opened in Auckland.
<https://indd.adobe.com/view/289d5fbb-41eb-4f00-849a-c4d2e1b33307>

CATHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FUNDRAISER: [Download flyer
here](#) \$100 will cover a small food hamper, \$200 a large food hamper, for a
family in need this Christmas.

CALLING ALL MEN: Exodus 90 men's meeting at St Thomas More church,
Tues, 6am weekly. Call Colin 021 815 536.

MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP: Meet on **Fri, 3 Nov** after the 9am Mass.
Grandmothers, mothers and women most welcome to come along.

PARISH OFFICE: The office will be open on Monday and Friday mornings during the next 5 weeks and Sharyn will be minding the office. If you require assistance on Tues, Wed & Thurs, there will be a notice on the office window – if you require assistance, please phone or text the number & you will be attended to. Emails and telephone messages will be cleared daily.

JOB VACANCY – Caritas: Caritas Aotearoa NZ has a vacancy for a Communications, Marketing & Engagement Manager. This is a permanent full-time senior leadership position, managing a competent and committed team. It is based in Thorndon Quay, Wellington. For details and to apply, go here: <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4151885>

TITIPOUNAMU STUDY & JOY: Letters to the Corinthians - who were they? with Kieran Fenn fms. **Mon, 9 Oct**, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: Koha. [https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/09/19/letters-to-the-corinthians-who-were-they/Muffin Talk - Interviews on radio, podcast, video.Bible Studies, Ecumenism, Interfaith Relations](https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/09/19/letters-to-the-corinthians-who-were-they/Muffin-Talk-Interviews-on-radio-podcast-video.Bible-Studies-Ecumenism-Interfaith-Relations) <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/> For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

RETREATS: Tyburn Monastery in Ngakuru (close to Rotorua). Cost - \$110 fee weekend/\$220 weekday - payable by Credit Card. If the fee is unaffordable please use the discount codes FULL or HALF to receive a FULL or HALF discount on the fee. Places are limited to five participants per retreat.

Visit cdh.org.nz/retreats for more information and to register.

Weekend Retreats: Tyburn; 20-22 Oct, 24-26 Nov.

Weekday Retreats: Tyburn; 22 Nov-1 Dec

FUNDRAISER 2024 Waipuna Hospice Diary – featuring handy gardening tips & yummy recipes – from Yates. Order direct via website, www.waipunahospice.org.nz/product/2024-diary/ -

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Jan Baker admin@allsaintsbythesea.nz
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APP: Churchapps nz - Allsaintsbythesea

formed.org is a premier on-line platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, cartoons, audio dramas, ebooks, and talks – and it's **FREE** for every parishioner. Enter parish code GNQDK3 or All Saints by the Sea.

AA: Do you, or someone you love, have a problem with alcohol? Alcoholics Anonymous meet in the STM Parish Lounge every **Sunday 6.30–7.30pm**. All welcome.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: “Prayer of the Heart” Tues 7pm-8pm at STM Church, M Maunganui. We welcome all. Experience and develop Christian Meditation in a holistic setting. Ph Kylie 027 964 8969 Paula 027 576 5235.

ROSARY is held **Tuesday to Saturday** after the 9am Mass at STM Church.

PUBLIC ROSARY every **Wednesday** at 6pm, outside STM Church. For more information please see <https://public-rosary.org>/<https://t.me/NZPrays>

ADORATION & BENEDICTION is held on **Wednesday** at STM Church after the 9am Mass & also on **Sunday** from 3.45pm to 4.45pm.

READINGS for 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 15 October 2023:

1. Isaiah 25:6-10 2. Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 **Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

MASSES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Tues, 10 Oct to Sun, 15 Oct 2023

Mon	St Denis & Companions & St John Leonardi	
9am Tues STM		
9am Wed STM	St John XXII	Brian Manson RIP
9am Thurs STM		
9am Fri STM	St Callistus I & Blessed Virgin Mary	Peter Manson
9am Sat STM		Alan Parker RIP
5pm Vigil St Pats	28 th Sunday in Ord Time	
8.30am Sun Aubert		
11.30am Maketu, (2 nd Sun of month)		
10am Sun STM		Missa Pro populo
5pm Sun STM		

If you wish to have a Mass offered, please contact parish office.