



Holy Family Parish

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A-
Sunday 12th July 2020

FIRST READING : Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Psalm 64

℟. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water, You fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. ℟.

And thus you provide for the earth; You drench its furrows, You level it, soften it with showers, You bless its growth. ℟.

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. ℟.

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes they sing. ℟.

SECOND READING : Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL : Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

"My child, all your sins have not wounded My Heart as painfully as your lack of trust does - that after so many efforts of My love and mercy, you should still doubt My goodness. You have a special claim on My Mercy. Let it act on your poor soul to bring light, warmth and life to you".

In Sinu Jesu: When Heart Speaks to Heart - The Journal of a Priest at Prayer

ST MARIA GORETTI (1890 - 1902)



Maria Goretti was the third of seven children of a poor peasant family living near Corinaldo in the province of Ancona in Italy; owing to extreme poverty the family later migrated to a village near Anzio. In order to make ends meet, Maria's father entered into partnership with a man called Serenelli, and shared a house with him and his two sons, one of whom was called Alessandro. Her father died in 1900, when Maria was ten.

Maria impressed everyone with her radiant purity. She was naturally pious, kind, and helpful. She was also outstandingly beautiful – and Alessandro Serenelli was a passionate and undisciplined man. She resisted his attentions, which only made her the more desirable, and narrowly managed to escape a serious sexual assault, which he made her keep secret by means of threats of murder. A month later Alessandro arranged things so that he would be alone in the house with Maria; and he had a dagger. She tried to resist, begging him to have care for his immortal soul, but he thrust a handkerchief into her mouth to prevent her from crying out, tied her up, and threatened her with the dagger. She could, the theologians say, have consented then, with no danger to her soul; but her love of purity was too great. Alessandro, enraged, stabbed her fourteen times.

She did not die, though her entrails were hanging out from one of her abdominal wounds. She was taken to hospital - seven miles of bad road in a horse-drawn ambulance - and was operated on for more than two hours. She lived for twenty hours more, became a Child of Mary, received the Last Sacrament, and specifically forgave Alessandro her murderer. She died in the afternoon of 6 July 1902, at the age of eleven years, eight months, and twenty days. Alessandro narrowly escaped being lynched, and was tried and sentenced to thirty years' penal servitude with hard labour. For the first seven years or so he maintained a cynical and defiant attitude, but later he changed and repented. Dreams of Maria herself figured largely in his repentance.

Maria was beatified in 1927. Alessandro was released in 1928; and he and Maria's mother received Communion side by side on Christmas Day 1937. Amazingly, they spent Christmas together.

Maria was canonized in 1950. Her mother was present at the ceremony, the first time this has ever happened. Some people say that Alessandro was there too, others not; but it is certain that he spent his last years in a Capuchin monastery: he died in 1970.



Pictured: Alessandro Serenelli with Assunta Goretti, mother of the girl he murdered. He knelt at her feet to beg for her forgiveness.

St. Maria Goretti (Memorial, July 6) was a pious 12-year-old girl when farmhand Alessandro Serenelli tried to seduce her on July 5, 1902. Failing that, he attempted to rape her, stabbing her 14 times when she resisted. Before she died, she forgave Serenelli, who later had a vision of his victim and converted.

After serving 27 years for his crime, he became a lay Capuchin brother and gardener for the monastery.

In a final letter shortly before dying, he wrote:

When I was 20 years-old, I committed a crime of passion. Now, that memory represents something horrible for me. Maria Goretti, now a Saint, was my good Angel, sent to me through Providence to guide and save me. I still have impressed upon my heart her words of rebuke and of pardon. She prayed for me, she interceded for her murderer. Thirty years of prison followed.

If I had been of age, I would have spent all my life in prison. I accepted to be condemned because it was my own fault.

Little Maria was really my light, my protectress; with her help, I behaved well during the 27 years of prison and tried to live honestly when I was again accepted among the members of society. The Brothers of St. Francis, Capuchins from Marche, welcomed me with angelic charity into their monastery as a brother, not as a servant. I've been living with their community for 24 years, and now I am serenely waiting to witness the vision of God, to hug my loved ones again, and to be next to my Guardian Angel and her dear mother, Assunta.

I hope this letter that I wrote can teach others the happy lesson of avoiding evil and of always following the right path, like little children. I feel that religion with its precepts is not something we can live without, but rather it is the real comfort, the real strength in life and the only safe way in every circumstance, even the most painful ones of life.

Alessandro Serenelli, May 5, 1961



A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOLISM IN THE ICON OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP - Feast Day - June 27th

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, also known as Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary by Pope Pius IX, associated with a celebrated Byzantine icon of the same name dating from the 15th century.

This icon has been in Rome since 1499, and is currently in the church of Sant'Alfonso di Liguori all'Esquilino.

- (1) This Greek initial stands for Mother of God.
- (2) Greek initial for St. Michael, the archangel.
- (3) Greek initial for St. Gabriel, the archangel.
- (4) Mary's mouth is small for silent recollection. She speaks little.
- (5) Mary's eyes are larger, for in all our troubles, they are turned towards us always.
- (6) Star on our Lady's veil means she is the star of the sea who brought the light Jesus into this world.
- (7) Red tunic is the color worn by virgins at the time of Christ (AD33).
- (8) Christ's hands turned palms down into His mother's indicate that the grace of redemption is in her keeping.
- (9) Mary's left hand supports Christ possessively. That means she is His Mother. It's a comforting hand for everyone who calls on her.
- (10) Dark blue mantle – the color worn by mothers in Palestine. means Mary is both virgin and mother of Christ.
- (11) The entire background is gold representing the Heaven
- (12) Golden crown placed on the original picture as a token of many miracles wrought by Our Lady invoked under the title of perpetual help.
- (13) Greek initials for Jesus Christ.
- (14) Foot with falling sandal represents Christ's divine nature, barely clinging to earth. The human nature is symbolized in the other foot to which the sandal is more firmly bound. This simply means that Christ has two natures, Human and Divine.

**As long as Faith gives me strength
I will always be joyful!**

-Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

**"To recite the Rosary
is nothing other than to
contemplate with Mary
the face of Christ."**

-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II-

**The MASS is the best and most
beautiful thing in the Church...
That is why the devil has always tried
by means of heretics to deprive us of it!**

St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

**"Don't allow the sad sight of human
injustice to sadden your soul;
someday you will see the unfailing
justice of God triumph over it."**

- St. Padre Pio

**"Christ is the artist, tenderly
wiping away all the grime of sin
that disfigures the human face
and restoring God's image
to its full beauty."**

St Gregory of Nyssa

**...let no one imagine that
humility can be achieved
easily and without labor.
On the contrary, it needs
more effort than the
practice of any other virtue.**

-Gregory of Nyssa

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

We gather to worship God,
in truth and in spirit,
We gather to be made holy,
to build up the Body of Christ
United in Jesus
that God might be all in all.

We gather to know His Word,
be fed by His Body,
We gather to make thanksgiving
by offering the Spotless Lamb,
And offering ourselves
that God might be all in all.

O Sacrifice of the Cross,
extended through the ages,
A memorial for Your spouse
of your death and resurrection,
Our gift to the Father
that God might be all in all.

O Banquet where Christ is consumed,
O Sacrament of love,
O Bond of purest charity,
O sign of perfect unity,
O pledge of the glory
when God will be all in all

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Come Holy Ghost, Creator, come,
From thy bright heav'nly throne,
Come take possession of our souls,
and make them all thy own.

Thou who are called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sev'nfold in thy grace,
Finger of God's right hand
His promise teaching little ones
To speak an understand.

O guide our minds
with thy blessed light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength,
which ne'er decays
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace into us bring;
and through all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee th' eternal Son,
And thee, the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
With his coequal Son;
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

COMMUNION HYMN:

Sing my tongue the Saviour's glory,
of His flesh the mystery sing,
of the Blood all price exceeding,
shed by our Immortal King,
Destined for the world's redemption,
From a noble womb to spring.

Of a pure and spotless Virgin, born for us
on earth below, He as Man with man
conversing, stayed the seeds of truth to
sow; Then he closed in solemn order,
wondrously His life of woe.

On the night of that Last supper,
Seated with his chosen band,
He is the Paschal Victim eating,
First fulfils the Law's command;
Then as food for his apostles,
gives Himself with his own hand.

Word made flesh, the bread of nature by
His word to Flesh he turns;
Wine to his own Blood he changes:
what though sense no change discerns?
Only be the heart in earnest faith her
lesson quickly learns.

Down in adoration falling, Lo, the sacred
host we hail; Lo, o'er ancient forms
departing, newer rites of grace prevail,
Faith, for all defects supplying,
where the feeble senses fail.

To the everlasting Father, And the Son
who reigns on high, With the Holy Ghost
proceeding forth from each eternally. Be
salvation, honour, blessing might and
endless majesty.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Firmly I believe and truly,
God is Three and God is One;
And I next acknowledge duly,
Manhood taken by the Son.

And I trust and hope most fully,
In that Manhood crucified;
And each thought and deed unruly,
Do to death, as He has died.

Simply to His grace and wholly,
Light and life and strength belong;
And I love supremely solely,
Him the holy, Him the strong.

And I hold in veneration,
For the love of Him alone;
Holy Church as His creation,
And her teachings are His own.

And I take with joy whatever,
Now besets me, pain or fear;
And with a strong will I sever,
All the ties which bind me here.

The Coast to Coast Rosary for Life and Faith will be held this year on Saturday 15th August at 3 pm.. For more information, please go to www.coasttocoastroary.co.nz or phone Clare 022 1912 886

NEXT SUNDAY:

19th July 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr A)

Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27;

Mt 13:24-43;

LITURGY ROSTER

Readers: M. D'Souza, K. Cheong
Prayers of the Faithful: C. Tagilima
Offertory: Stowers - Subermani Family
Special Ministers: M. Tupai

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

Leaumoana Family

SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER

School Holidays

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

- 12 Jul:** *Eruera Erihe*
- 13 Jul:** *William Strong, Shay Ah Loo*
- 14 Jul:** *Pat Chillingworth, James Hodge, Gerald Stansfield, June Tyrell, Constantinus Bonsel*
- 15 Jul:** *Alice Robinson*
- 16 Jul:** *Dood Lett*
- 17 Jul:** *Alfred McCullough, June Vuksich*
- 18 Jul:** *Vaea Manuha'apai*

PARISH FINANCES

Parish	\$985.10
Priests	\$492.60
Total Cash	\$1,477.70

~ HOLY FAMILY NEWS ~

Pray and Play Day - Thank you to all those who participated and helped out with the Pray and Play Day.

Don't forget the Catechism Classes start on **Sunday 26th July** after the 9:30am Mass.

First Reconciliation Classes - will start again on Saturday 25th July from 4pm to 5pm in the Bugler Centre.

Please note: *This is for those who were enrolled earlier in the year and were not able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to lockdown.*

REQUIEM MASS FOR RACHEL DENNERLY

There will be a Requiem Mass here at Holy Family Parish for Rachel Dennerly on Saturday, August 1, at 11am. It will be followed by refreshments in the parish Hall; and then for those who choose, we will head to Auckland Memorial Park to bless her grave. Rachel was well known to many in this parish. She would often join us for Sunday Mass, for gatherings in the Hall, for other services, and parish events. You will remember that earlier this year, Fr Jeremy asked the parish to pray for Rachel as she went through a liver-transplant; and then sadly had to inform the Parish that advanced fatal cancer has been discovered post op. Rachel peacefully passed away just before lockdown on March 21. No Funeral services were able to be held at that time due to Covid. May she rest in peace. ~Fr Jeremy