



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

“Just to be is a blessing, just to be is holy.” I discovered this quote of Abraham Joshua Heschel, a Jewish Rabbi, many years ago. I am sure the saying is known to many of you: “Just to live is holy, just to be is a blessing.” I thought of it again a few days ago when a beautiful book was given to me called “Benedictus - A Book of Blessings.”

As I have been using this book to pray with and reflect I have also been thinking of how good it would be, what a blessing it would be, if we could see that everything is a blessing, that all is gift and that God is the Giver behind the gift. The author of this book, John O’Donoghue, wrote in the introduction:

“In the parched deserts of post-modernity a blessing can be like the discovery of a fresh well. It would be lovely if we could rediscover our power to bless each other. I believe each of us can bless. When a blessing is involved it changes the atmosphere. In the light and reverence of a blessing, a person or situation becomes illuminated in a completely new way.”

What a privilege it would be for each of us to change the atmosphere around us, to illuminate persons and situations by living in such a way that we are a blessing for everyone else. We can do this if we see that it is a holy thing just to be alive, it is a blessing. However that is not possible for everyone, for many people life is a struggle, there are crises to contend with, the heartache of broken relationships, the challenge for many of putting food on the table and staying warm and dry in the winter. Such situations are opportunities to be a blessing for one another.

Perhaps, this prayer might help us. I know it helps me at the beginning of each day.

“May I live this day
 Compassionate of heart
 Clear in word
 Gracious in awareness
 Courageous in thought
 Generous in love.”

I pray that today and every day is a blessing for you.

Nāku noa. Nā

John

Perhaps we bless each other all the time, without even realizing it. When we show compassion or kindness to another, we are setting blessing in a train.”

John O’Donoghue

NOTICES

- Please continue to pray for the **sick and frail clergy**, especially Monsignor John Carde, Frs Maurice Carmody, Don Morrison and Colin Durning.
- Fr Cirilo Barlis will be celebrating the **Archdiocesan Youth Mass** at St Anne's Church Newtown at 5pm this coming Sunday 13 June. All are invited to celebrate this Mass. A light supper and an evening with the Lifeteen team will follow.
- **Jubilee Mass** will be celebrated on Wednesday 14 July at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie at 11am followed by lunch at The Pines, Houghton Bay. All are welcome to attend Mass and celebrate with the clergy of the Archdiocese.
- **Clergy Retreat Date Saver:** More information will come out in due course but please note in your diaries now September 27 until October 1st at Tatum Park.
- All are welcome to a celebration of the 186th anniversary of the birth of **Suzanne Aubert**, on Saturday 19 June 2021 at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay.
11am A morning with accomplished author Fleur Beale writer of "The Calling".
1pm Premiere screening of a short film "Against All Odds - The Story of Linda Swayn".
2pm Commemorative Mass will be celebrated.
- **Vaccination against the Covid19** virus is regarded as a critical step in overcoming the coronavirus pandemic. New Zealand has now begun rolling out its public vaccination programme using the two-dose Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops strongly support this programme. Yesterday I received my first Covid19 Vaccination and encourage all to get yourselves vaccinated.

Anniversaries of Ordination - June

3	Eddie Condra (1970)
17	Alan Roberts (1972)
18	Julian Wagg (1972)
19	Ron Bennett (1972)
21	Leone Iosefo (1991)
24	Bruce England (1978)
29	Owen Sinclair (1963)

I believe that morally, everyone must take the vaccine. It is the moral choice because it is about your life (and) the lives of others

Pope Francis (10 January 2021)

Anniversaries of Death June

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

2	John Durham (1994)
7	James McDonnell (1999)
9	Thomas Little (2013)
14	Alexander Taylor (2009)
15	Cyril Donoghue (1979)
17	Jeremiah McGrath (1978)
18	John Roberts (1996)
20	Basil Hayes (1989)
26	William Heavey (1988) David Monaghan (2000)
30	Malcolm Sherrard (2012)