



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

13th February 2022—6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY



While the world celebrates valentine's day in mid-February, the Catholic Church celebrates World Marriage Day, something similar but different. The purpose of World Marriage Day is to highlight the beauty of marriage and to honour husbands and wives for their faithfulness, service and sacrifices. Valentine's day by contrast celebrates the stage of a relationship that is more emotional, the butterflies we feel in our stomach when we are in the presence of

that special someone. These emotions are an important stage of a relationship, but it is a nascent stage that must develop and mature into a relationship not focused on emotion but on true love and service of the other. The scriptures tell us that marriage is a reflection of the love that God has for us, his people.

God freely chooses to love us, and he loves us fully. God is always faithful to us, and this love bears fruit in our lives the more we respond to Him. In the same way a marriage is free; it is a free internal and external choice of the man and woman. Marriage is a total gift of oneself to the other, holding nothing back. Marriage is faithful love and devotion to one's spouse till death, through good times and bad. Marriage is fruitful, it is a love that goes outward, and accepts children lovingly as a gift from God.

Of all the Church's teachings, there is none that is mocked, ridiculed, or misunderstood more than marriage. This view of marriage is labelled old fashioned and out of date. Yet the permanence, totality, fidelity, and fruitfulness of marriage is not an imposition onto us by God or by the Church. They are an expression of our deepest desire for love and relationship that is permanent, exclusive, whole, and abundant. Each of us has a deep desire in every friendship and relationship for stability, for permanence for loyalty and commitment. This finds its fulfilment in marriage. Not that marriage is always perfect. We all have our weaknesses but with the grace of this sacrament it is possible to persevere, to keep on giving, to keep serving and to keep on loving one's spouse and children.

Pope Francis recently wrote a letter in 2016 affirming this view of marriage. At the end of the letter, he concludes with this beautiful prayer which reminds us that prayer must be at the heart of every relationship, especially marriage and the family.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Fr Ben D'souza sm
Assistant Priest

READINGS (Year C) **This week:** Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

Response: *Happy are they who hope in the Lord.*

Next week: 1 Sam 26: 2,7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15: 45-49; Lk 6: 27-38

These are also on our Mobile App under **Readings**.



Parish Priest
Fr Peter Head sm
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Parish office
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Office Hours:
9.00am—3.00pm

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Parish Website
Christchurchsouth.org.nz



Parish App
The Catholic Parish of
Christchurch South



<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChchSouth/>

Parish Notices

REGISTRATIONS for ALL MASSES at the Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: PLEASE NOTE that everyone who intends to come to a **WEEKEND Mass MUST register**. Mass **limits** are: My Vaccine Pass (limit **100**), Carmelite Monastery (limit **40**) and No Vaccine Pass Masses (limit **25**). To register go to: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/CatholicDioceseOfChristchurch/SundayMassRegistration2>

DONATIONS towards School Attendance Dues 2022: This year the parish is supporting 15 students with school Attendance Dues. If this is something you would like to help with, please make a donation to the parish bank account with reference **ATT DUES** or put cash in an envelope marked '**Attendance Dues**' in the collection plate. (Please provide contact details if you would like a receipt). The cost for one student for this year is \$462.50. *Thank you.*

PARISH FORMED.ORG SUBSCRIPTION:

Our parish has purchased **formed.org** for our parishioners. This website has thousands of videos, series, talks, eBooks and more. **This is free to parishioners.**

Signing up is easy:

- 1: Go to formed.org/signup
- 2: Look for '**Catholic Parish of Christchurch South**'
- 3: Enter your name and your email address



VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED: Flourish Charity Op Shop needs volunteers for a variety of roles: to sort items, collect items, shop assistant, help young mothers, and check donated electrical items for safety (prefer an electrician for this). We welcome enquiries. Please call 351 3227 or email: flourishophop@gmail.com

**TRUST GOD
IN THE STORM**

Weekly Collections 6 February
Parish \$1,396 Clergy \$698

Automatic Payments January 2022
Parish \$9,551 Clergy \$4,775

Thank you

Parish account for donations
Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20

Parish & Diocesan Notices

GARDENS: at St Peter's Church, Beckenham and Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Hoon Hay. The parish is hoping for 6 -10 people at each church (2 groups of 3 or 5) to do a general weed and tidy-up (not lawns) around the church building once a month – during the months of Feb to May and September to December. *Can you spare an hour or so once a month to do this for your community?* Please let the office know if this is something you can help with.

BIBLE DIARY 2022: We still have a number of Bible Diaries for 2022 available at the parish office for \$20.

 **COUPLES FOR CHRIST:** invites you to join their Christian Life Program. Starting **12th March at 6.30pm at St Peter's Hall, Beckenham.** A My Vaccine Pass is required. Dinner & refreshments will be served. Please contact Albert Sanico 021 812 106, Jojo Tio 021 1587 595 or Al Abela 027 569 3405.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY: All of us face adversities. But when we struggle, can we still find the ways we are blessed? What or who are the blessings in your life that help you face the things that are most difficult? This weekend in our parishes, we celebrate **World Marriage Day**. This is an opportunity to pray for those whose marriages have broken down, those who are struggling in their relationship and to celebrate with couples who have been happily married for many years. We remember too, those whose spouses have died. As we pray for married life in our communities, we give thanks for the Vocation of Marriage and for God's everlasting covenant, to be with us always through the tough times.

ONLINE MASS: St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Mass at 9am. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCgzJ7jRCKk> or find the link on the diocesan website and Facebook page.



Mass Intentions: Br Emilian O'Dowd fms, Maureen Purdie, Fr Muliau Stowers, Fr Paulino Kalolo, Len Sullivan & Heather Boaz, Bud & Rosemary Grose, Rosemary Stopforth, Leticia Malonzo

Please Pray for Recently Deceased:

Ele'elesa (Sa) Pula, Linda Baird

Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: Mass Times for RED Traffic Light

Registration required for all weekend Masses.

Addington - Sacred Heart
70 Spencer Street

Monday	5.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am
Friday	9.00am
Saturday	9.00am
Saturday Vigil	5.00pm.
*Sunday	9.00am
Sunday	10.30am
*Sunday	5.00pm

*Sunday 9am and 5pm Masses:
No Vaccine Pass required, 25 maximum.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sacred Heart:
Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
or by appointment with a priest

Exposition at Sacred Heart
Friday 9.30am until 10.30am
Saturday 9.30am until 11.30am

Beckenham - St Peter's
11 Fisher Avenue
Sunday 9.00am

Carmel Monastery
52 Halswell Road
*Daily 8.30am
*My Vaccine Pass required.
Limit 40

Halswell - Sts Peter & Paul
56 Nicholls Road
Thursday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 10.30am

Hoon Hay
Our Lady of the Assumption
170 Hoon Hay Road
Sunday 9.00am

Baptisms 2nd Sunday of the month.
Contact the Parish Office

Primary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption
Ph 338 9503,
www.ola.school.nz/Home/

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,
www.sacredheartchch.school.nz

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,
www.saintpeters.school.nz