



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

21st August 2022—21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

The Faith in Mystery

The dictionary defines faith as “*trust or confidence in someone or something.*” So I could say that I have *faith* in my car, and by that I mean that I have confidence that it will start on a cold morning and take me safely from A to B. I also have *faith* in a friend, when he says he has paid for the meal as we walk out the door of a restaurant. I trust that he has paid for the food we just ate and that his card was not declined. Our *faith* increases the more often we make these acts of faith or the more credible the object or person is. My *faith* in my car increases because it is relatively new, has a good safety rating and has started every time to date. Faith in people can increase in a similar way, if my friend has a stable job (and a platinum VISA), or I have known him for 20 years and over this time he has told me about himself.

So far we have been talking about Natural *faith*, which every human has in people and objects that we can see with our eyes and touch with our hands. I hear the words a friend says, and noises my car makes with my ears.

Supernatural Faith is different, it is a mystery we can never fully understand. We don't see, hear, or touch God in the same way. However there are some parallels with natural and supernatural Faith. Even though I have *faith* in my car, I still say a prayer as I put on my seatbelt, this is how I place my trust and confidence in something greater than the protection offered by the airbags; the protection of my guardian angel, and the intercession of our Blessed Mother. When my friend has a job interview, I trust that he has the right qualification, but I also make an act of Faith. I pray that God will send his Holy Spirit to help my friend remain calm and answer the interview questions confidently and precisely.

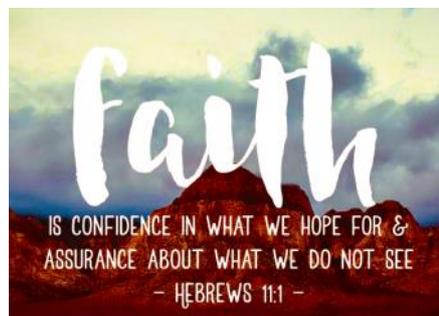
Just as natural *faith* increases each time we use it and if the object is credible, the same with supernatural Faith. The more often we pray, the more often we trust and confide ourselves and our loved ones to God, the more we grow in our Faith. And when it comes to credibility, there is literally nothing and no one who is more credible or trustworthy than God who is all good, all knowing and all powerful.

The most incredible thing is that supernatural Faith lets us see God as he sees himself. Just as my trust in my friend increases as he tells me more about himself, things that I cannot know just by observing him. Our Faith in God begins and grows as God reveals himself to us. God cannot lie and reveals the truth about himself through the scriptures, through the Church and through the silence of our prayer. As God reveals himself we better know the God we love and are able to place even more Faith in Him.

Supernatural Faith is a gift that only God can give. This doesn't mean that we just wait for God, we also act! We speak the truths of our Faith to others, so that they know God and ask for the gift of Faith for themselves. We also develop our understanding of our Faith by reading sound books and listening to good podcasts so that our Faith is strengthened and grows deeper like the roots of a strong tree.

Each day, let us place our trust and confidence in the loving God who made us. The God who nourishes our souls with his real presence in the Eucharist and who keeps leading us to love him, so that we may grow in our Faith in him.

Fr Ben D'souza sm
Assistant Priest



READINGS (Year C) This week: Isa 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30

Response: *Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.*

Next week: Ecc 3:17-20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14:1, 7-14

These are also on the Parish App under Readings.



Parish Priest

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Assistant Priests

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Fr Barry Malone sm

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Parish office

Ph: 03 338 8395
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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/](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChchSouth/)

PARISH NOTICES

NO MASS AT ST PETER'S: Thursday, 25th August - there will be **no 11am Mass** at St Peter's but there will be **Benediction for St Peter's School at this time.**

NO MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION: Friday, 26th August—there will be **no 11am Mass** at Our Lady of the Assumption.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2022:



Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation closes on **Tuesday 23rd August. Please make sure you register before this date so your child does not miss out.** Please go to our website to register.

(www.Christchurchsouth.org.nz).

An information night for parents will be held on **Tuesday 23rd August, 7pm-8pm**, at **Sacred Heart church, Addington.**

ALTAR SERVERS: we are looking for servers especially for Hoon Hay & Halswell.

Training will be provided. Please email the secretary to register your interest:

secretary@christchurchsouth.org.nz

THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL:



The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Halswell, Hoon Hay would like to thank all those who so generously donated foodstuffs to our recent "paper bag" appeal, and gave \$\$\$ too. We could not carry out our work without your help. Thank you so much and God bless you. Pat Watson

SAFEGUARDING—KEEP THE DATE:

Sacred Heart, Addington

Tuesday 13 September at 9.30am—10.30am
or **Tuesday 1.30pm—2.30pm.**

St Peters, Beckenham

Wednesday 14 September at 7pm—8pm.

To register go to:

<https://parishresources.chchcatholic.nz/safe-church/safeguarding-course-registration/>

INNER-CITY CWL: have an ongoing service project making wee teddy bears for children who require the services of St John, these are carried in the ambulances. We would love to have as many helpers as possible to make these bears. If you knit, sew or crochet and would like to support these children we would love to hear from you, all materials and patterns supplied, see notice board in church foyer. Phone Bonny, 349 4416 or 021 178 2552



MASS FOR SENIOR PARISHIONERS : This month it is at **Sts Peter & Paul, Halswell on Tuesday 23rd August at 1.30pm** followed by a cup of tea. If anyone would like to be picked up please ring the parish secretary phone 338 8395 or email Joanne Hope pastoralcare@christchurchsouth.org.nz

HALSWELL CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE:



The Halswell Catholic Women's League will be running another one of their Lotto raffles during September and the tickets will be on sale before and after the Masses at Halswell this weekend.

Many thanks.

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE RACE NIGHT:

Ticket sales now open. Join us on **Friday September 2nd** in the Silks Room at Addington Raceway for an evening of fun and help support the work of the JP II Centre for Life. Tickets are \$60 per person which includes entry and a two course meal with cash bar available. Book your ticket at <https://bit.ly/jp2racenight> or contact Maria on info@jp2.org.nz or 022 503 9249 for more info.



Having faith means drawing support from the faith of your brothers and sisters, even as your own faith serves as a support for the faith of others.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Weekly Collections 14 August

Parish \$1,671 Clergy Fund \$835

Automatic Payments July

Parish \$9,330 Clergy Fund \$4,665

Special Collection this weekend:

21 August - Maori Mission

Parish account for donations

Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20 Thank you



Mass Intentions: Heather Boaz, Len Sullivan, Anthony Cummings

Please Pray for all those with Anniversaries at this time: Ellen Reilly

Please Pray for Recently Deceased:

Terence Daly, Fr Pat Kennedy, Maureen Whiting

Catholic Parish of Christchurch

South: Mass Times

Addington - Sacred Heart

70 Spencer Street

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

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
Thursday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Carmel Monastery

52 Halswell Road

Daily 8.30am

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
Friday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Baptisms 2nd Sunday of the month.

Contact the Parish Office on 338 8395

Primary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption

Ph 338 9503,

www.ola.school.nz/Home/

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,

www.sacredheartchch.school.nz

school.nz

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,

www.saintpeters.school.nz