



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

14th May 2023 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Our Blessed Mother leads us to Jesus

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Fatima – marking the appearance of Mary to shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. It seems fitting then to share with you my own journey with Our Blessed Mother.

Growing up, my mother prayed the rosary, but it was not a prayer we shared (in fact I did not even know how to pray it properly until I was 18 years old!). As you can imagine, I had little understanding of Mary's place in the scheme of things – mistakenly seeing devotion to Our Lady as an 'optional extra'. I would pray the rosary with others, but not on my own. I accepted it as something that was part of the Catholic faith, but not for me - because I was 'focused on Jesus' (or so I thought). I have known many Christians with this same mistaken mindset about how they should relate to Mary.



The truth that I have come to realise is that not only should all Catholics be praying the rosary, but that in order to truly deepen our relationship with God, we must all look to Mary, the 'Theotokos' (God bearer) to guide us. I now pray the rosary daily with my wife and children. I have come to see Mary as a true mother – one who points me toward greater closeness with her son Jesus.

For me this change came as part of receiving prayer for personal healing. During this process, I realised that some of my indifference toward Our Lady was the fruit of difficulties I had in my own relationship with my parents growing up. The healing of these wounds opened me up to see Mary as a Mother in a new way.

Another important step for me was recognising the unique place Mary holds in salvation history. Consider this: the Heavens cannot contain the Glory of our God – and still, our Blessed Mother carried this Glory Incarnate within her womb! Mary literally delivered our Saviour into the world. She fed, clothed, and nurtured him as He grew; she remained close to Him right until the end. To call this 'special' is an understatement; no other human being can claim such a closeness to God. How can we not then look to her as a guide, a teacher and helper when it comes to knowing Our Lord?

So, I encourage anyone who is feeling hesitant or indifferent to Our Lady - as I did - to reflect upon this truth. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any obstacles in your heart that keep you from seeking help from His Blessed Mother. And give the rosary a try – I can promise you that praying it daily has borne great fruit in my life and in my family.

Tim Malone
Coordinator of Sacramental Ministries

A Thank you from Tim Malone

By now many of you will be aware that my family and I will be departing soon for Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only Fr. Peter, all the priests and parish staff, but also all the people of the Parish of Christchurch South who have made me and my family feel so welcome and supported during our time here. Your kindness and generosity has been a great blessing to us – we will remember you in our prayers!

Tim Malone

READINGS (Year A) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18;
John 14:15-21

Response: *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

Next Week: (Year A) Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mathew 28:16-20
These are also on the Parish App under **Readings**.



Jesus Said:

"I will send you the Advocate,
the Spirit of truth. He will come
to you from the Father and
will testify all about me."

[John 15:26]

Parish Priest

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Assistant Priests

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Parish office

Ph: 03 338 8395
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Office Hours:

9.00am–3.00pm

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Tower Junction,
Christchurch 8149



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

SENIORS MASS: will be held at Sacred Heart church, Addington on **Tuesday 16th May at 1.30pm** followed by a cup of tea. If anyone would like to be picked up please ring the Parish Secretary on 338 8395 or email Joanne Hope PastoralCare@christchurchsouth.org.nz



SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS: are available throughout the Diocese. If you have not had a refresher for 3 years or more please check out the Safeguarding website for scheduled dates. <https://www.cdcsafeguarding.nz/copy-of-police-vetting-1>

The next workshops in the South are as follows:

Sacred Heart, Addington Wednesday 17th May
10.30am—12 Noon or 7pm—8.30pm

St Peters, Beckenham Wednesday 17th May
7pm—8.30pm

CHRISTCHURCH IRISH SOCIETY: 75th anniversary **Friday 2nd -Sunday 4th June 2023** held over King's birthday weekend.

On **Sunday 4 June, Mass at 10-30am** to be held Sacred Heart Church. Any inquiries please to Paul Mulvaney ph 03 381-4414. 027 321 4216



Do you want to build your faith ? Check out formed.org watch.formed.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA): Are you or someone you know thinking about becoming Catholic? RCIA might be the next step. RCIA is the process in the Catholic Church for prospective adult converts to the Catholic faith.



To sign up <https://tinyurl.com/y2sct9kp> or contact Fr Ben D'souza sm assistantpriest@christchurchsouth.org.nz

BASIC HEALING SEMINAR THROUGH SACRAMENTS: This seminar is being held on **Saturday 20 May at St Teresa's hall**, 10 Puriri Street, Riccarton. Speaker is Sr Melba Serafico, MHNJM, who is a lay missionary and Elder of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Her charism is healing, deliverance and evangelism. After a miraculous healing she has committed herself to full ministry.

Topics that will be covered are call to holiness, kinds and nature of sickness, major blocks to healing. Contact person Perla Andrews. (H) 966 0063 (M) 021 049 3803

Mass Intentions: Jim O'Regan (anniv), Marcos Dela Pena Jr, Julieta Dela Pena, Annabelle Dela Pena, Murray Ross, Creo, Monina, Felipe & others, Rima Arney (105th bday), Eileen McDougall (anniv), Jim McDougall (anniv), Shona & Len Sullivan, Heather Boaz & Clare Sullivan, Archbishop Alapati Mataeliga (Samoa), Rosie & Bud Grose, Phyllis Dilger, Harry Dilger, Michael Dilger

Please Pray for all those with Anniversaries at this time: Jim O'Regan, Eileen McDougall, Jim McDougall,

Please Pray for Recently Deceased:
Fr Kevin Foote, Nancy Ryan



Weekly Collections 7 May
Parish \$2,225 clergy Fund \$1,112

Automatic Payments April
Parish \$10,634 Clergy Fund \$5,317

Next Special Collection:
Peter's Pence Sunday 2 July

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



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: Mass Times

Addington - Sacred Heart
70 Spencer Street
Monday 6.00pm
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

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