



# Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

## 23rd July 2023 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Prayer and Humility

As Christians, prayer holds a vital place in our daily lives. While monastic religious devote their entire days to prayer, those of us with busy lives, must make an effort to set aside just 5 minutes here and there to connect with God in silence, talking to Him as a friend.

The saints frequently emphasize the necessity of **humility** in prayer, considering it a prerequisite to authentic prayer. Humility involves acknowledging and expressing the truth about ourselves and God: we are limited, weak, and fallen beings in need of God's boundless mercy and grace. To grasp humility's significance, it's helpful to contrast it with pride.

Pride, known as the greatest of the capital vices, was the in the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Pride manifests as an excessive self-centeredness, it devalues others' worth and dignity, insisting that one's own good remains separate from that of others. It despises the fellowship of human equality under God and seeks to create its own self-serving peace, rejecting the peace God offers. Pride poses a significant obstacle to genuine prayer, as illustrated in Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and republican at prayer reminding us that the Pharisee "spoke his prayer to **himself**" (Luke 18:9-13). When one prays with pride, the focus is on oneself as the ultimate problem solver, disregarding the need for God's help.

Conversely, humility forms the foundation of all virtues, recognizing our limitations and leading us to turn to God and others for help. As St. Augustine put it, "**Humility acts as a vessel where the honey of God's love can dwell.**" Through humility, we see our strengths and weaknesses through the lens of truth, recognizing areas where we can draw closer to God. It shields us from being blinded by a desire for success and instead encourages us to willingly submit to God's plan for our lives. As we grow in humility, our souls are able to be joined to God, allowing His Holy Spirit to pray within us. Humility helps us relinquish the burdens that are too heavy for us to handle, surrendering them to a God who surpasses us in every way. It nurtures a genuine desire in us to help others and to petition God on their behalf.

In essence, humility in prayer enables us to grow spiritually, draws us closer to God, and disposes us to embrace God's will and the well-being of others with a loving and selfless heart. In reflecting on the importance of humility in prayer, let us consider St. Benedict's prayer for humility:

*Dear Father in Heaven, I thank You for the love and grace You have given me. I desire to please and honour You. And I desire to do the work You have called me to do. In the process of fulfilling my purpose, I do not want to be proud and be boastful of my success. I do not want to be bound with pride and have a heart that was hardened. Therefore, I pray to be meek and lowly. I pray to be as gentle as a dove who exhibits Your love, peace, kindness, and goodness. Train me in humility, for I know who I am in You so there is nothing to worry. Grant me wisdom and Godly counsel. Clothe me with self-control and modesty. Teach me patience and understanding. Let me be holy, for You are holy. And let me be pure, for You are pure. So I may walk in Your Spirit, and You Will be glorified.*

Fr Ben D'souza sm  
Assistant Priest

#### Parish Priest

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#### Assistant Priests

Fr Ben D'souza sm  
assistantpriest@christchurchsouth.org.nz  
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#### Coordinator of Pastoral Care

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#### Coordinator of Sacramental Ministries

TBA  
sacramental@christchurchsouth.org.nz

#### Parish office

Ph: 03 338 8395  
secretary@christchurchsouth.org.nz

#### Office Hours:

9.00am – 3.00pm

70 Spencer St, Addington  
Postal: PO Box 9055,  
Tower Junction,  
Christchurch 8149



Parish Website  
[Christchurchsouth.org.nz](http://Christchurchsouth.org.nz)



Parish App  
The Catholic Parish of  
Christchurch South



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

**READINGS** (Year A ) Wisdom 12:13, 16-19;  
Rom 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

**Response:** *Lord, you are good and forgiving..*

Next Week: 1Kings 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30;  
Matthew 13:44-52

These are also on the Parish App under  
**Readings.**



**JUBILATE 2023: "South and West Parishes and Schools, It's Your Turn!"** We've now had our first very successful Jubilate concert in this year's series. The second is coming up. The Christchurch South and West parishes are bringing their talented choirs and young singers together for a good sing. Come and join your voice in fervent core singing and support our featured choirs.

**Where? St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.**

**When? Thursday 27 July from 7.00 to 8.00pm.** All welcome and admission is free."

## PARISH NOTICES



### CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

**2023:** Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now open. An information night for parents will be

held on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm-8pm, at Sacred Heart church, Addington.**

**This is also the final date to register for the 2023 confirmation programme.**

[Click here to register for the Confirmation Programme](#)

**HOON HAY CHURCH** If you hold a key for the church, please contact Judy at the office, ph 338 8395, [administration@christchurchsouth.org.nz](mailto:administration@christchurchsouth.org.nz).



### VACANCY: Prison Chaplaincy Director New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

*Can you help us show the love of God inside the prison walls?*

Applications are invited for the position of Prison Chaplaincy Director for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC). The Prison Chaplaincy Director is a national role, providing pastoral and professional leadership and support to the Catholic chaplains who provide chaplaincy services in New Zealand prisons. This is a critical role, leading an important national ministry of the Church.

If you or someone you know has experience as a prison chaplain (or in other pastoral or chaplaincy roles) and team leadership experience combined with theology and pastoral qualifications, please visit [www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/prison](http://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/prison) for more information.

### HALSWELL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

#### Week 4 Lotto Results

Winner – 06 Paul Bateman  
Runners up 05 Judy Hann  
07 Janice Torrance

### BISHOPS URGE ALL CATHOLICS TO STUDY SYNOD'S WORKING DOCUMENT INSTRUMENTUM

**LABORIS:** All Catholics are being urged to read the working document that will guide the Synod meeting in Rome in October and help to set the future direction of the Church. Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, says the *Instrumentum laboris* (Working Document) published by the Synod Secretariat is another step towards the future, not its final word. "This working document is the product of the process of the Church listening to and hearing what the People of God have said during the parish, diocesan, national and continental stages of the Synod process that Catholics here and around the world have been part of," says Bishop Steve. "It is a document that reflects the Holy Spirit speaking to people throughout the world. As such it is a document for the whole Church, and I invite everyone to prayerfully read and reflect on it, and to pray for the Synod's work over the next 18 months."

More information including links to *Instrumentum laboris*: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-2/>

Link to a PDF of *Instrumentum laboris*: [www.catholic.org.nz/assets/ENG\\_INSTRUMENTUM-LABORIS.pdf](http://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/ENG_INSTRUMENTUM-LABORIS.pdf)

Link to a PDF FAQ and Synthesis with detailed information about *Instrumentum laboris*: [www.catholic.org.nz/assets/FAQ\\_SYNTHESIS\\_IL\\_ENG-v2.pdf](http://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/FAQ_SYNTHESIS_IL_ENG-v2.pdf)

### Weekly Collections 16 July

Parish \$2,073 Clergy Fund \$1,037

### Automatic Payments June

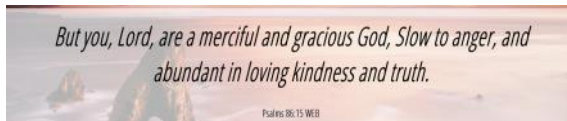
Parish \$11,602 Clergy \$5,801

### Next Special Collection:

Maori Education 27 August

### Parish account for donations

Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20 Thank You



**Mass Intentions** Ian Pawson (anniv), Eddison Taeoalii (anniv), Minnie Foley, Dec'd members Foley family, Shona & Len Sullivan, Rosie & Bud Grose

**Please Pray for all those with Anniversaries at this time:** Ian Pawson, Eddison Taeoalii

## 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

**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/](http://www.ola.school.nz/Home/)

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,

[www.sacredheartchch.school.nz](http://www.sacredheartchch.school.nz)

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,

[www.saintpeters.school.nz](http://www.saintpeters.school.nz)