



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Last week Pope Francis continued his catechesis on prayer which he has been doing for several weeks at his usual Wednesday General Audience. He spoke of contemplative prayer and said: “Everything comes from this: from a heart that feels that it is looked on with love.” He then went on to say that the most intimate prayer does not need many words, and that a gaze from Jesus is enough, a gaze from Jesus is enough to be convinced that our life is surrounded by an immense and faithful love that nothing can ever separate us from.

I found his words to be very powerful, and a few days later as I was preparing a presentation I am to give in a few weeks time, I thought back to the document that Francis wrote just over three years ago called *Gaudete et Exsultate* “Rejoice and be Glad.” This document is about God’s call to us today to grow in holiness. In one part he writes about five attitudes that we all need in order to grow in holiness, to come closer to God in our ordinary day-to-day lives. This part of the *Gaudete et Exsultate* is called “In Constant Prayer.”

I share with you some of the word of Pope Francis, words which challenge us and help us day by day to spend time with the Lord and grow in holiness, he writes:

“I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though the prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions.”

“Some moments alone with God are necessary.”

“Trust-filled prayer is a response of a heart open to encountering God face to face, where all is peaceful and quiet and the voice of the Lord can be heard in the midst of silence,”

“For each disciple, it is essential to spend time with the Master, to listen to his words, and to learn from him always. Unless we listen, all our words will be nothing but useless chatter.”

Every day it is possible for us to hear the words of Jesus “Remain in my love”. When we hear those words, because we are trying to be in constant prayer we will also experience the gaze of Jesus who looks on us with love.

Blessings to all

Nāku noa. Nā

+ John

NOTICES:

Please continue to pray for the sick and frail clergy especially, Monsignor John Carde, Frs Maurice Carmody, Don Morrison and Colin Durning. We also remember at this time Fr Michael O’Dea whose anniversary is 15 May. May he rest in peace.

A **Service for Christian Unity** is being held at the Home of Compassion, Rhine Street Island Bay at 7pm on Tuesday 18 May with the theme, *Remain in my Love*. All are welcome.

Pope Francis has invited all Catholics and 30 Marian Shrines around the world, to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. Named Rosary stronghold.

NOTICES (cont):

Welcome to new Catholics Mass The annual Mass on Pentecost Sunday (23 May) to welcome new Catholics will this year be held at **5pm at St Mary of the Angels Church**. This is always a wonderful occasion for RCIA teams and those baptised and received at Easter. Please encourage all those received into the Church since last Easter to attend this celebration.

We bid farewell to Fr Patrick McIndoe CP who has been at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish since 2012. Pat is leaving New Zealand on 23 May and will be returning to PNG to continue his ministry there. Thank you Pat for all you have done for so many during your time here in the Archdiocese.

Congratulations to the Parish and Architects of Our Lady of Kāpiti parish who have won the Public Spaces Award at the NZ institute of Architects Wellington Regional Awards. A wonderful recognition to all the work done creating this worship space.

Anniversaries of Death - May

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

- 2 Robert Hughes (1985)
- 3 Timothy O'Brien (1987)
- 4 Thomas Homan (1989)
- 5 **John Pearce CP (2019)**
Harold Trehey (1978)
- 8 Robert Ryan (2005)
- 11 Kieran Klimeck (1983)
- 12 Merton Bradford (1973)
- 13 Brian Austin (2018)
- 15 Leo Jansen (1994)
Michael O'Dea (2020)
- 21 Henricus (Harry) Ekelschot (1991)
- 23 Hugh McHale (1984)
- 25 Brian Fox (1972)
- 27 Thomas Leahy (1978)
- 28 Michael Madden (1995)
- 31 Noel Donoghue (2005)

Anniversaries of Ordination May

- 6 Biju Xavier (2000)
Cirilo Barlis (2017)
- 9 John Dew (1976)
Joseph Keegan (1976)
- 23 Maurice Carmody (1970)
- 28 Sanele Latu (1988)