

Kia tau te rangimarie ki a koutou,

Last Saturday, 22nd February, was the Feast of the Chair of St Peter, a feast once described by Pope John Paul II as “shedding light on the special ministry of Peter strengthening and guiding the Church in the unity of faith which the Lord entrusted to the head of the Apostles.” he went on to say that this mystery of unity comes from “Fixing our gaze on Christ.”

The Lenten journey we have begun is all about “fixing our gaze on Christ.”

Lent is a time to hear again the call of Jesus to “repent and believe the good news.” The call to personal conversion is at the heart of the message of Jesus and is clearly at the heart of the ministry of Pope Francis. The Pope is very clear about the fact that ALL of us are constantly called to conversion of heart. In his first year as Pope, on the Feast of St Ignatius Loyola, he said in a homily: “The question ‘is Christ the centre of my life?’ is for us, for any of us, the question that cannot be taken for granted. It cannot be taken for granted because there is always the temptation to think that we are the centre; and when we put ourselves and not Christ at the centre, we err, we go astray”.

I think that sometimes the temptation for us is also to think that the call to personal conversion, to “fix our gaze on Christ” is for others and not for me. In this time of Lent when we are invited to pay closer attention to the Word of God, we know that is so we can personally focus on our relationship with Jesus, and not on all the other things that worry, distract or preoccupy us.

One of the strategies of Pope Francis in his work to reform the Church, and especially the Roman Curia (which was asked for in the Cardinals’ meetings leading up to his election) is to keep emphasising that this is always about personal conversion. It is about a change of heart, putting Jesus at the centre of life and fixing our gaze on him. When Jesus is at the centre and the focus of our lives the relationships that we have with others improve, the things that worry us fall into place - even things like the question of Mass times, what will happen with “MY” parish, and how to cope with the many questions we are faced with today seems to fall into place.

The questions for Lent therefore are:

- How do I keep my gaze fixed on Jesus?
- How do I make Jesus the centre of my life?
- How do I focus on Jesus in the days ahead?

Naku Noa, +John

Please remember in prayer **Fr Fergus Reeves** who died on Saturday 22 February. May he rest in peace.

First Anniversary of Christchurch Mosque Attacks. Sunday 15 March will be the first anniversary of the tragic shootings at the Christchurch Mosques. It will be appropriate to remember this in some way at all Masses on Sunday 15th. Please include this in Prayers of the Faithful, or perhaps a minute’s silence as this first anniversary is remembered, or any other ways you would like to ensure that this anniversary is observed.

What’s Happening

March 2020

- 14 Mission Expo - Bishop Viard College, Porirua 10am – 4pm
21 Mission Expo - Garin College, Nelson 10am - 4pm

April 2020

- 5 Our Lady of Kapiti - Opening of new Church and Parish Centre
Chrism Mass
7 South Island - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond, 7pm
8 North Island - St Teresa’s Pro-Cathedral, Karori, 7pm
20 - 24 Clergy Assembly - Tatum Park
24 - 26 (Anzac Weekend) - Takirua 2020: Shaping the Mission Conference; click [here](#) for more information.

